

the chronicle

Family marks life of quiz ace – page 6



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Festive spirit at museum

A LICHFIELD museum is gearing up for Christmas with three fun, festive events.

Erasmus Darwin House kicks off its pre-Christmas activities with a guided walk around the historic cathedral close tomorrow (Friday) at 2pm.

The tour starts at the Beacon Street venue and takes people around the close while pointing out the fascinating buildings and events in its rich past.

Another walk follows the following Friday (December 17), also at 2pm. Both will end at the museum for mince pies and mulled wine.

Booking is advised for the two tours as spaces are limited.

This Sunday (December 12), Erasmus Darwin's birthday will be celebrated by staff and visitors are invited to join in the fun.

Between 11am and 4pm the museum is opening its doors for people to enjoy carol singers from St Michael's School, Christmas-based activities and a drink in the tea room, with the birthday cake being cut at 12.30pm.

To book a place on either tour for £4, call 01543 306260.

Mother tells of anguish as festive season looms without murdered son

IT'LL BE LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS

by TIM SPIERS

cannockchron@expressandstar.co.uk



Victim Richard Deakin

THE MOTHER of a Chasetown man who was murdered in his own bed has said she doesn't know how she'll get through Christmas without her son.

Richard Deakin was shot at his home on Meadway Street on Monday July 5, sparking a murder investigation which has yet to be solved.

An appeal to help find his killer will be aired on BBC's Crimewatch programme next Tuesday (December 14) at 9pm, with detectives from Staffordshire Police's major investigation department desperate for new information.

Richard was aged just 27 when he died and his mother Carol has spoken of how difficult the next few weeks will be for her and the family Richard left behind.

"I don't know how we're going to get through Christmas without Richard," she said. "He loved Christmas and would always arrive with all the family on Christmas Eve to stay with me over the Christmas period."

Richard, a former pupil of Cheslyn Hay High School and fiancée Megan moved to Chasetown in 2008.

They had two daughters; Ellie, aged four and two-year-old Jessica. "Ellie and Jessica have got their wooden advent calendars either side of their daddy's photograph, so that he can watch them enjoy their countdown to Christmas," Carol added.

"Ellie believes that her daddy is always shining over her – the bright star in the sky."

Present

"Richard would laugh as he felt his gifts and guessed his presents before he opened them."

"He even bought presents for the dog."

"Richard also got involved in cooking the Christmas morning breakfast for us all and he would get dressed up for Christmas Day."

"It's really upsetting that these are now only memories of sharing Christmas as a family with Richard, and can no longer be experienced."

"It will be really hard for us all."

Carol added that Richard's Christmas present this year would be his new gravestone, penned with beautiful words, the last thing they could do for him.

DCI Dave Garrett is leading the murder investigation for Staffordshire Police and he appealed for anyone with information to get in touch.

"Christmas will obviously be a very hard time for Richard's family and we're continuing to offer them our full support," DCI Garrett said.

"A dedicated team of detectives are progressing our complex investigation into Richard's brutal murder."

"We're committed to catching Richard's killers and taking them off the streets."

Two men have been arrested in connection with Richard's death and remain on police bail pending further inquiries.

Anyone with information should call Staffordshire Police on 01785 236600 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

School looks to £10,500



Year Three pupils with the totaliser showing the £10,500 target needed to refurbish the playground at St Michael's Primary School, Sturgeon's Hill

YOUNGSTERS from a Lichfield school are hoping to help raise more than £10,000 needed to create a new playground.

St Michael's Primary, in Sturgeon's Hill, is currently undergoing major rebuilding work which will see the school move onto one site for the first time in 44 years.

The expansion project is being supported through the sale of the school's annex site on Church Street and the Primary Capital Funding Programme.

It has been nine years in the making and just managed to avoid the recent government axe on school building projects.

The playground has been significantly dug up during the building work and, but the school needs to raise money for new playground equipment to finish the project off.

The school's PTA is running the fundraising campaign and has so far accumulated £4,800 of the £10,500 required.

A Christmas fair held on Saturday (December 4) raised £2,600 towards the total.

PTA member Steven McLaren said the event was a huge boost to the fundraising coffers.

"We're now well on our way to reaching the £10,500 target in 2011," he said. "I'd like to thank people who helped out at the fair, including everyone who attended, donated raffle prizes, bought tickets and helped run stalls."

For more about the campaign email michaels.pta@hotmail.com

Villagers' relief over HS2 route

RESIDENTS in Whittington have breathed a sigh of relief after a proposed High Speed 2 rail route through their village was rejected.

The Government is set to announce the official London to Birmingham route later this month.

For now the chief engineer for the HS2 route has told MPs Michael Fabricant and Chris Pincher that an alternative link suggested by a resident has been dismissed.

It is said to have failed on noise grounds and other criteria which would have caused considerable alarm to residents in Whittington and nearby Hopwas. Lichfield MP Mr Fabricant was due to

lobby Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday (Wednesday) on the plans.

He has stated his opposition to the route going through Lichfield and said the proposed second route was unacceptable.

"I am glad that it has been rejected," Mr Fabricant said.

Mr Fabricant added during discussions with Mr Cameron he would raise his concerns regarding the engineering and route of HS2 and whether the project is necessary at all.

Meanwhile Lichfield Action Group has urged residents to write to Mr Fabricant, Mr Cameron and West Midlands MP Liz Lynne to express their opposition.

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Youngsters win awards day praise

A YOUNG people's group from Burntwood have been declared one of the best youth projects in the region.

The group called Morph4us were runners-up at the prestigious Philip Lawrence awards ceremony in London on Tuesday, December 7.

The awards celebrate outstanding contributions made by 11 to 20 year-olds in their community while challenging unfair negative stereotypes of young people.

More than 200 nominations were received this year from all over the UK and a judging panel of former winners chose the 35 regional finalists.

Morph4us aims to combat anti-social behaviour and portraying a positive perception of young people.

The project allows young people to learn about their community history by incorporating it into artwork while understanding the values, identities and relationships shared between them and community members.

Group members are currently planning to produce

Rebate call is a hoax

A CANNOCK woman has been targeted by council tax refund scammers.

The resident of the Bevan Lee estate was contacted last Friday, December 3, by someone claiming to be the head of council tax for the Birmingham area.

She was informed that a refund of £7,000 was owed and asked how she would like to be paid.

The woman did not divulge her bank details but the caller also gave her a phone number to contact for information.

The number 020 3286 1358 did not match with the 0121 Birmingham code.

The 020 number is connected to a postal address in Regent Street, London, where there have been numerous reports around the country of it being used as part of a Council Tax scam.

Cannock Chase Council and the police are currently investigating the incident.

Councillor Tony Williams, Cannock Chase Council environment leader, said: "I appeal to residents not to give out any personal information if they receive this kind of call."

"If these criminals get hold of your bank details then you could be in real trouble."

Anyone who receives a call of this nature is urged to call 01543 462621 or Staffordshire Police on 0300 123 4455 immediately.

Slade alive as history society launched

VILLAGERS on the edge of Cannock Chase have been celebrating the creation of a history society which will chart its changes through the decades.

Hazel Slade residents attended a meeting to celebrate the creation of the Hazel Slade Local History Society. A website, www.hazelslade.org.uk, has been launched by Derek Davis OBE, whose family has lived in the village since 1871. It has already had

contact from people around the world whose families originated in Hazel Slade or who still live in or around "the Slade".

The society has already had a number of meetings and speakers have led discussions on topics from the mining industry of the area to the history of the local school.

More meetings are planned for the New Year and details can be found on

the website. The society also publishes a newsletter to keep members in touch with what's happening.

Society chairman Ray Martin, who was born in the village, said: "A lively and informative newsletter and website are really important for any history society – not only do they help to keep members informed but also give an opportunity to pass on findings, new information, and submit

research queries. We welcome interest from anyone who has a connection of the village."

The village, which was first recorded in 1650, has a history in mining and is also known in the horse racing community as the home of three winners of the Grand National. Membership details can be found on the website or via the secretary John Hill JP, 25 Cypress Drive, Hazel Slade, Cannock.

Sarah's in the pink for driving

A DRIVING instructor in Cannock says female customers are tickled pink to have lessons in her car which is emblazoned in love hearts.

Sarah Brown is the first Kan Kan driving instructor in the area. The driving school offers women the opportunity to be taught to drive only by female instructors.

Sarah, aged 34, has just qualified with Kan Kan and has now taken her car onto the roads of Staffordshire.

Sarah, who had worked in a variety of roles in the retail sector said some women who had come to her for lessons had suffered bad driving experiences including being shouted at by male instructors.

She said: "I hated learning to drive as I lacked confidence in my abilities and was about as nervous as you could get."

"Some of my pupils have come to me because they are also nervous and had bad experiences with instructors who would lose patience and shout."

To book a lesson with Sarah call 07508 000575.

Consultation begins on housing project

Painters have brush with fame



Artist John Tooth with one of his pictures at the art exhibition taking place at the Lightworks Centre

AN EXHIBITION of local art is going down a storm at Hednesford's Lightworks Centre, in Market Street.

Heath Hayes Art Society was asked to install a gallery of their latest work at the centre and it's proving so popular that items are being snapped up by shoppers.

The group meets once a week at Heath Hayes Library and currently has 28 members. They have produced oils, acrylics and watercolours for the exhibition, which runs until next Friday, December 17.

Group chairman Sue Brindley said: "The exhibition has done really well and it's surprising just how many people are coming to visit."

"Lots of people have bought work which is a real achievement for our members. There's no real theme, it's just our latest work, and we've had some great feedback."

The exhibition can be viewed from Tuesday to Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Author at library for book signing

AUTHOR David Williams will be signing copies of his latest book on Saturday (December 11).

A former head of Bridgtown Primary School, Mr Williams will be at Cannock Library to showcase the second book from the Bridgtown & District Local History Society.

He will talk about the book, 'Bygone Bridgtown' and sign copies from 10am until 1pm at the Manor Avenue library. The book details a collection of photographs illustrating the life and times of Bridgtown as its community has developed.

For more information, contact Cannock Library on 01543 510369.

PROPOSALS for a multi-million pound housing development in Hednesford are going out for public consultations over the next few days.

The site between Pye Green Road and Limepit Lane has been identified by Cannock Chase council as suitable for a 750 plot housing estate which will be supported by a new primary school, community facilities and open space.

The Council has arranged for public consultations starting from today (Thursday) where local residents can discuss the proposals.

Jamie Summerfield, spokesman for Cannock Chase Council, said: "These ideas are in very early stages and no planning applications have been put in."

"The Council are working with developers and now people in the local area to discuss the site and share ideas."

The Council's Core Strategy recognised the area as suitable for the huge development which will tackle Cannock's housing shortage.

A draft development brief was created to guide potential developers on how the site could be used and now residents of Pye Green Road and the surrounding area can contribute their views.

Views

Economic development and planning member Councillor Danny Davis said: "In preparing the draft development brief we will listen carefully to local community interests in order to help shape future development needs."

"We hope we have got it right but through this consultation process we welcome views on the brief we have produced."

Council officers, site developers and agents will be on hand to hear views and answer questions at Pye Green Community Centre on Thursday 9 between 4pm and 7pm, on Friday from 3-6pm and at Hednesford Library on Monday 13 and Monday 20 from 3.30pm to 6.30pm.

The development brief will be available to view online from December 8 at www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk and comments can be submitted online.

MEET YOUR REPORTERS



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Fun day has new date in freeze

THE Museum of Cannock is to host a special Christmas late-night opening next week after the freeze saw the annual family day cancelled.

The museum in Valley Road, Hednesford, will be open on Tuesday December 14, between 11am-5pm.

Festive fun and games begin at 4pm, and youngsters can make Christmas decorations at drop-in art and craft workshops.

Santa Claus will be in his coal mine grotto from 5pm, while a storyteller narrates Christmas tales nearby from 5-6pm.

Visitors can also find out how Christmas was celebrated during the World War Two in the 1940s festive display room.

Councillor Mick Groot, Cannock Chase Council culture and sport leader, said: "We were really disappointed to have to cancel the Christmas family day but because of the freezing weather conditions we had to put public safety first."

"The Christmas late-night opening will be a great night, with lots of festive fun and games."

Walk of the town

ACTIVE chatterboxes in Cannock and Rugeley are being invited to participate in Age UK's Walk and Talk Plus scheme.

Residents are being invited to come along to free short walks in and around the area.

Cannock walks take place each Friday from 11am. This week's walk starts at the Barley Mow in Milford, near Stafford, and the December 17 walk begins at the Heath Hayes Park car park on Wimblebury Road.

Rugeley walkers meet at the Rugeley Leisure centre, Burnthill Lane every Wednesday at 2pm. Age UK South Staffordshire organises the walks, which have been approved by the Walking the Way to Health Initiative.

Tree festival

A FESTIVAL of Christmas trees takes place in the grounds of St Chad's Church, Chasewater, Cannock, on Saturday, December 18, from 10am-4pm and on the next day from 11.45am-4pm.

Pupils' home thoughts prove to be a class act

YOUNGSTERS attended to a housing crisis by taking part in a topic to form their own development firm.

All Saints Church of England Primary School, in Bednall, near Stafford, comprises only four classrooms – two of them mobiles – and had to use PE facilities at the former Huntingdon Primary, near Cannock.

The old buildings in Stafford Road, Huntingdon, have now been demolished to make way for Littleton Green School, which All Saints still uses. The site has been bought for housing by developers Taylor Wimpey, and senior land manager Neil Ballett invited All Saints pupils to visit and gain first-hand experience of the development.

He then called in at the Bednall school for a housing fair organised by Year 5 and Year 6.

As part of their Housing Crisis topic, the pupils had to set up companies, develop a company brand, locate a potential plot of land, produce floor plans for the range of homes they intend to build and plot layouts.

They researched and wrote promotional lit-

erature to go with their housing estates using a mixture of computer design and hand-drawn images. Finally, they had to pitch their product to Mr Ballett, who was invited to decide whether he would invest in any of the five companies.

Mr Ballett spent a morning with the children discussing ideas and interviewing company managers.

Mr Ballett said: "I was really impressed with the children's ideas and the way in which these were confidently presented. All matters had been considered including layout design, open spaces, garden areas and road design. The house types were selected to reflect market conditions with prices accurately set."

Winning Go Green team member Megan Cooper said: "It was exciting to be able to present our ideas to someone from a real housing company."

Teacher Chris Evans said: "The children have got an awful lot from this project. They are using a range of skills including literacy, design and technology, ICT and maths."



Neil Ballett presents gifts from national housebuilder Taylor Wimpey to two members of the winning company Go Green, Katy Moore and Ellie Ashley-Brown

Chinese head in visit to school

VISITING head-teacher Lixia Wang, came all the way from China for a day with students of Chasetown Specialist Sports College.

Mrs Wang runs Chasetown's international partnership school, Luoshan middle school in Pudong.

The jazz band and college council entertained the guest and Mrs Wang sat in on lessons throughout the day.

Rebecca Bostock, from Chasetown Sports College, said: "Mrs Wang was really excited about our cold weather as apparently it never gets like this in Pudong."

"The students loved hearing about Mrs Wang's life in China and the differences between the two schools."

"She doesn't speak a word of English and came with an interpreter so the whole experience was a real culture shock."

The visit followed on from Chasetown Bernice Astling's visit to China.

Numbers shrink as road objectors left out in cold

A PUBLIC meeting debating plans for a controversial link road in Hednesford was hit by arctic conditions.

Only nine people attended the Hednesford Community Forum, which had the Pye Green Valley Link Road plans high on its agenda.

The previous forum saw more than 10 people turn up, and with a large number expected again last week, the meeting was switched to a bigger venue.

Only a hardy handful braved the cold. Campaigner Lisa Pearce was a notable absentee, but she had submitted questions to the panel of local and county councillors in advance.

Resident Ron Turville asked John Hooper, from the county council highways department, who would be responsible for any subsidence.

Mr Hooper told him he was confident that building new houses and a road would not cause any subsidence and, if it ever came to it, people would go down the "normal routes" with their insurance company.

The county council will be responsible for two-thirds of the upkeep of Pye Green Valley, and the other third would be the responsibility of the as yet undecided homes developer.

He said: "We are talking hypothetically about things that haven't occurred."

Mr Hooper defended the fact that no designated public meeting had been held and cited the two-day exhibition at Blake Valley School as a way for the local community to ask any questions.

Eight people requested site visits with constructors Balfour Beatty, which have already begun.

The meeting last Tuesday night, November 30, was moved from the Museum of Cannock Chase to the Ex-Service-men's Club in Hednesford, in expectation of large numbers.

Partners couple Simon and Katy Foster and Stuart Cox, have been declared bankrupt.

Paul Nicholls, of solicitors Nicholls Bramble, said it may sue if it can be proved that trading standards and police did not act quickly enough to suspend trading.

Primary school trips a winner say judges



At the Learning Outside the Classroom Awards are, from left, celebrity cartoonist Bill Tidy, Western Springs advanced skills teacher Lesley Biddle, headteacher Shirley Welling, chief executive from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, Beth Gardner, and Brendan Jones, managing director for UK Schools' education division

A SCHOOL in Rugeley held at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham on Monday, December 6.

Awards were presented in recognition of schools' commitment to providing a creative curriculum that challenges young people and offers real-life,

hands-on experiences. Beating off stiff competition from 170 schools across the country, Western Springs convinced judges that their school trips had a positive impact on the students in their care.

Located on a deprived 1960s housing estate, Western Springs lifted itself out of special measures by incorporating school visits to Cannock Chase and Llandudno beach in Wales into the timetable.

Visit www.tuieducation.com for school trip information.

Historic books on sale

A TABLE top, collectors and craft fair is to be held at St Luke's Church Centre, Cannock on Saturday from 10am-2pm.

More than 20 dealers will offering a wide variety of new and old items for sale including antiques, bric-a-brac, jewellery, craft articles, candles, pottery and ceramics, table decorations and books.

On sale will be two local history books by Frederick Hackwood, Glimpses of Bygone Staffordshire, published in 1925, and The Chronicles of Cannock Chase and a limited issue printed in 1925 together with other books of local interest.

Entrance to the fair is free.

Time for tea and dancing

TEA dances take place on Wednesday at Mansfield House, Market Street, Rugeley.

Visitors are welcome to join in as the Mansfield Chorus and dance sequences and fun dances for all ages. Call 01785 248450 for details.

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Housing scheme wins nod

A DERELICT Cannock school is to be transformed after a housing scheme won approval from planners.

Cannock-based Matco Holdings plan to convert the former Chadsmoor Infants School into six two-bedroom mews houses. The £300,000 project would also include an extension to provide four flats.

Members of Cannock Chase Council's planning committee unanimously approved the scheme at a meeting last Wednesday (December 1).

They also imposed a condition on the developers that they must begin work within 12 months.

Labour's Councillor Les Bullock said: "This site has been in a very dilapidated state for some time. Chadsmoor is crying out to get this scheme up and running."

Party colleague Councillor George Adamson, a former pupil at the infants school, said: "The sooner we get something done the better."

The building, on the corner of Cannock Road and Cecil Street, started life in 1877 as Chadsmoor Board School for Girls, but has been empty for more than 20 years.

It closed when the infants school moved to new premises in Kingsway and has been framed by scaffolding for several years.

Bosses at Matco had previously said restoration of the building would be financially unviable and had planned to demolish it. But the new plans would see restoration to parts of the historic building – including the wings – take place.

Cow escapes and is shot dead in road

A COW was shot dead after escaping from a Burntwood slaughterhouse.

The animal is thought to have got away from a slaughterhouse in Alden Hurst before running into Columbian Crescent, just after 12.30pm on Monday. It was shot half-an-hour later by slaughterhouse workers.

A retired woman in Columbian Crescent said she was "scared stiff" when she saw people outside her house with a gun.

The woman, who did not want to be named, said she saw two men in white trousers, hats, and coats.

"Then I saw they had rifles and I jumped down on the floor. I was frightened to death," she added.

Staffordshire Police spokesman Neil Spencer said the slaughterhouse owners had called to say they were having trouble recapturing the cow, and that it had to be shot.

Five-pints cyclist, 50, in fatal fall

A GRANDFATHER died after falling from his bike on the way home from a weekly night out with friends, an inquest at Cannock was told.

Kevin Griffin, of Water Street, Burntwood, suffered a fatal head injury on June 4 at The Ridgeway, Burntwood, close to its junction with Lawnswood Avenue.

The 50-year-old had been drinking with friend Phil Taylor in Burntwood before being

driven back to his friend's home on The Ridge-

way.

Mr Griffin, who had drunk five pints, was found by a passing motorist, lying in the road with his bike nearby.

Mr Griffin was married to wife Beverly. He had four children and four grandchildren and worked at Burntwood-based Todd Engineering as a sheet metal worker.

Mrs Griffin told the hearing her husband

cycled home after drinking five pints every Friday evening.

She said he regularly cycled through a small gap between a speed ramp and the pavement, which Coroner Andrew Haigh agreed was the likely cause of the fall.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, Mr Haigh told Mr Griffin's family that he was "very sorry" that a typical journey home had ultimately ended in tragedy.

Sacked pensioner wins job payout

A WOMAN of 67 has been awarded more than £23,000 for age discrimination and unfair dismissal after losing her job at Cannock following a takeover.

Christine Sadler had been employed by LVS Rubber Mouldings Ltd for more than ten years as an administration manager, dealing with accounts and wages, Birmingham Employment Tribunal was told last week.

But the firm went into administration and

was taken over by Avon Engineering Rubber Ltd, of Norton Canes, Cannock.

Mrs Sadler, of Beech Crescent, Burntwood, who sought compensation against the Avon firm for unfair dismissal and age discrimination, complained she was unfairly treated by the new management.

Charles Crowe, representing Mrs Sadler, said she was stripped of her managerial status and demoted.

David Langdel, Avon's production director,

said Mrs Sadler went absent from work and he assumed she had resigned.

Tribunal judge Alan McCarry said the tribunal decision was that Mrs Sadler had been unfairly dismissed and discriminated against because of her age.

Tom Williams, representing the firm, which had opposed the claim, agreed to a suggestion by Mr Crowe over compensation.

An offer of £23,046 was made and accepted by Mrs Sadler.

Weir off! Reservoir dam repairs begin

THE £3 million scheme to repair and improve Chasewater's main dam and weir has got under way. Contractor Galliford Try has started work at Chasewater Country Park and it is expected to finish early next year.

The repair work aims to limit the effects of heavy rainfall and erosion to ensure the dam remains safe for decades to come. The massive project includes replacing a bridge in Pool Road, strengthening the weir and relining an outlet pipe. Councillor Val Richards, Lichfield District Council's cabinet member for leisure services, said there had been much advance planning.

"To plan repairs to a dam that is more than 200 years old has taken an enormous amount of preparatory work, so, we're pleased to get to this stage."

Councillor Richards added: "I'd like to thank everyone who visits and uses the country park, especially the clubs, for their patience during the works."

Billions of gallons of water have been drained from the district council-owned reservoir near Burntwood to allow the multi-million-pound repair

work on the dam.

A crisis report prepared by Lichfield District Council warned urgent action was needed to prevent catastrophic flooding from the reservoir, which supplies the canal network with water.

Outdoor skills are put to the test

STUDENTS and staff from a Rugeley school put their outdoor skills to the test with a trip to an activity centre.

Year 8 pupils from Hagley Park Sports College embarked on their annual three-day residential at Dunfield House, based on the Welsh border near to Kingston.

They took part in a range of activities, designed to promote team building and social skills.

These included climbing, abseiling, caving, gorge walking, canoeing, horse riding, mountain biking, archery and high ropes.

In the evening youngsters swam, took part in quizzes and played computer games or went orienteering.

They gained team points for participation, team work, attitude and behaviour.

Headteacher Liz Merryman said this year's Dunfield trip was their best for many a year.

"Students really enjoyed themselves and their attitude, commitment and sense of responsibility were excellent throughout," she said.

"They learned much about themselves as well as the activities they enjoyed."

"Many reported a real sense of achievement in conquering their fears and then taking part in the adventurous activities."

"They were a real credit to themselves, their teachers and their families."

Mrs Merryman also thanked staff who gave up their time so that the students could benefit from the experience.

Barbed wire wrestle ring

WRESTLING fans can witness the sport's "most dangerous match" at an event in Rugeley tomorrow (Friday).

For the first time in British wrestling the ring will be lined with barbed wire, not ropes as USA champion Jonny Rose, in the UK for one week only, takes on LAW-UK professional wrestler Cameron Steele.

It takes place at Rugeley Progressive Working Men's Club, based on Market Street, from 7pm.

The card also features a six-man tag team match. Tickets are £5 on the door.

Fireworks ensure annual event goes off with a bang

Town's festive switch-on a real Christmas cracker



Santa greets a young visitor in his grotto



Town Council chairman Mick Grocott has a warming drink



A fireworks display marks the end of the festivities



Youngsters enjoying the festivities at the Rugeley Christmas Cracker event last Friday

Warning on car thefts in icy spell

POLICE have issued a warning to car owners in Cannock following a of early morning thefts.

People have been urged to avoid leaving their vehicles to thaw out with the engine running before setting off. Some insurance companies are refusing to pay out over such incidences.

A red Vauxhall Cavalier was stolen from a driveway in Westgate, Rugeley on Thursday December 2 at around 8.15am.

The week before, on Friday, November 26, a grey Mazda was taken from Larchmere Drive in Essington.

Chase police have also dealt with two thefts in Wombourne.

DS Dave Wain, of Stafford CID said: "There have now been four cars taken in the same fashion."

"We urge people not to leave their cars unattended with the engine running while they go back in their houses to leave the vehicle to defrost."

"People should be aware that some insurance companies will not pay out if cars are stolen when the keys have been left in the ignition with the engine running."

Staffordshire Police spokesman Carol Evans said: "We advise simple crime prevention including securely locking vehicles and removing all belongings on show; especially work equipment or sat navs."

"Park in a garage or under a street light with the alarm on and make sure keys are kept in a safe place."

Anyone with any information on any of the thefts is asked to call DS Wain, on 0300 123 4455, quoting reference 101 of 3 December.

Meeting on incinerator

A PARISH council meeting about the proposed Kingswood Lakes Biffa incinerator is taking next Wednesday (December 15).

Norton Canes Parish Council is holding the meeting, which will be attended by representatives from Biffa.

A presentation is due to be given and residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the plans.

The meeting is being held at Norton Canes Library on Burntwood Road and starts at 7pm.

A FIREWORKS display helped the Rugeley Christmas lights switch-on go off with a bang last week.

Fittingly, the weather added to the festivities as snowflakes fell just as the 30ft tree donated by the Rugeley Traders was lit.

Santa arrived with the help of the Rugeley Fire Service as his reindeer and steam engine were struggling with the weather. He and Mrs Claus saw more than 150 children on the night last Friday (December 3).

Santa and the town's first Lotto winner Derek Burnyeat pushed the button to light the Market Square tree.

Entertainment was provided by the Bill Bailey Jazz Band along with The Best of Friends who performed in Brook Square. Sundance School of Dance gave a performance in Market Square with the Victory Christian Centre Choir providing a festive ensemble of carols.

Seasonal

Some 20 market stalls were set up throughout the town centre selling Christmas gifts, along with two charity stalls.

The majority of shops stayed open to join in the festive fun, while the Fire Service brought in a Toyota car to simulate a road traffic collision to promote their Driver Safety Campaign.

The night was compered by Ian Keeley of Sounds Unlimited who played seasonal music.

The night ended with Town Council chairman Councillor Mick Grocott counting down to the fireworks display which was funded by various companies in the area.

Pat Hancock of the Rugeley Traders Association and Rugeley Indoor Market said: "It is truly fabulous that the people have got together to show the great spirit and community that we have here."

Any Lotto tickets sold on the Christmas Cracker Event night is for the draw on January 4. The second Lotto draw took place on Saturday, December 4 and the winning number was 1073.

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165-17	270	£18	195-45-15	225	£22	205-55-17	£45
155-70-17	270	£18	175-45-14	225	£22	185-55-14	£45
165-70-17	270	£18	185-45-14	225	£22	195-55-14	£45
185-70-14	270	£21	195-45-15	225	£22	205-55-14	£45
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Wildlife experts warn over new bird virus

EXPERTS from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust are urging people who feed garden birds to be on their guard after a virus carried by them was identified in the county.

Avian pox, which can be fatal to birds, has been in evidence at several sites.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, based at Wolseley Bridge near Rugeley, said there is no risk to humans, but the disease can be fatal to birds especially where they come

into contact at feeding stations in gardens and parks.

Bird lovers have been advised to keep feeders and tables clean, avoid putting out too much seeds and to move feeders round the garden regularly.

Trust warden Scott Petrek, said: "Avian Pox is a horrible disease that causes large tumour-like growths on the body and will eventually kill the bird infected."

"The disease is highly contagious among

birds, and is easily spread on contaminated surfaces such as feeders and tables.

"With the recent cold snap the trust is still encouraging people to feed garden birds to help them survive but please be mindful of this problem and clean feeders, tables and bird baths regularly to reduce the chances of the disease spreading."

Anyone who sees bird with avian pox should report their sighting to the Garden Bird Health Initiative on 0207 449 6685.

Traffic chaos as brick load falls from lorry

A LORRY shed its load of 20 tons of bricks near a busy roundabout, causing rush-hour chaos in Cannock.

A white articulated lorry dropped its huge haul on the Longford roundabout, between the A5 and the A460 Wolverhampton Road, at 8am on Monday (December 6).

Police closed two entrances to the roundabout and diverted traffic away from the area, causing two-mile tailbacks.

A section of the A460 to the A5 at Wedges Mill was shut and drivers were unable to get on to the A5 to the M6 Toll for around two hours. Officers were still clearing the scene at lunchtime.

Staffordshire Police spokesman Carol Evans said: "Twenty tons of brick were shed off the lorry and diversions had been put in place."

Covered

She added: "It doesn't seem that the incident was weather-related, but we don't know at the moment."

"Officers will be investigating but we won't know the cause until their work has been completed."

Sophie Wain, aged 21, from Wolverhampton, who works in sales, said: "The bricks covered the whole left side of the island. All the traffic was backed up from the motorway up by the M6 toll road."

"It took me one hour and 10 minutes to get into work and it usually takes only 25 minutes."

Receptionist Jean Jowett, 62, of Fordhouses, near Wolverhampton, said: "It was a hassle getting into work."

"A police car was covering the entrance to the island so we just had to go left and round the outskirts."

"I'm usually in work for 8.30am but I didn't get there until 9.05."



Brick are strewn across the carriageway after falling from the lorry at Longford Island

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We need care fee views say Labour

BURNWOOD'S Labour councillors want to hear people's views on Staffordshire County Council's proposals to push up service charges for vulnerable and elderly people.

Staffordshire County Council is to charge thousands of people more for their social care. The fees, which in some instances are up to £40 a week, are likely to impact on pensioners watching every penny.

Burnwood's Councillor Steve Norman said: "We are offering to help as district and town councillors. People can also contact us via our website hosted by WST.co.uk."

Councillor Norman fears the charges will put some people off even applying for care in the first place which will lead to further isolation from their local communities. The official consultation to the county council's proposals ends on December 31.

Hours

Summerfield and Chasetown ward's Labour councillors were at Burnwood Library last Saturday to speak to carers and other people who rely on social care.

Currently, service users only contribute towards the cost of the first 10 hours of care in their own home.

The county council has sent out an 11-page document explaining that, in the first year, 32 per cent would have to start paying for their services.

Twenty per cent would pay up to £15 per week more and 12 per cent up to £40 more.

Newlife auction

FASHION brand goods were going under the hammer at Cuttlestones of Penkridge last night (Wednesday) to help the Newlife Foundation of Cannock buy equipment for disabled children.



William Jenkins, six, and five-year-old Millie Jones set out a stall

Christmas chime is here

A RUGELEY school invited the local community to a Christmas market to raise funds for a new play area.

Chancel Primary School asked local traders to set up stalls at the school in Wolseley Road, along with market stands manned by pupils and staff. Mandy Holmes,

from the PTA, said staff from shops across Rugeley were involved last Friday, and there were hot food stands and an appearance from Father Christmas.

The event was aimed at raising money for new outdoor play equipment.

thechronicle

Lib Dem moves to ease job cuts

STAFF at Cannock Chase Council may be allowed to take voluntary redundancy after a U-turn by the Lib Dem leadership.

It is the first clear indication that job cuts are on the way. Council leader Neil Stanley said the move was to avoid compulsory redundancies.

The authority will have to cut between £1.2m and £3m from its budget over the next few years.

Other measures under consideration include a 12-month recruitment and pay freeze, and inviting staff to take cuts in their hours or buy additional annual leave.

The move to allow staff to volunteer for redundancy – currently only allowed under limited circumstances – was being put to the full council today (Thursday).

Councillor Stanley said last Friday: "The intention is to talk to the unions and if we can get everything to stack up there will be no compulsory redundancies. That is the objective."

Workers help at sports day

EMPLOYEES of a Staffordshire firm volunteered to lend a hand at a Cannock event for athletes with special needs.

Staff from power and automation technology group ABB, of Stone, agreed to help out at an Olympics-style event at Cannock Leisure Centre last Sunday.

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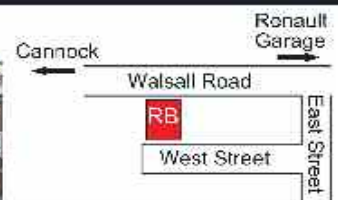
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LETTERS to The Editor are welcomed on any local topic.

E-mail your letters to us at can-nockchron@expressandstar.co.uk or send to Cannock & Lichfield Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Please note that full names and addresses MUST be supplied, though not necessarily for publication.

The Editor reserves the right to cut or not to publish.

Collection for Guide Dogs raises £176.30

THE Burnwood, Cannock and Lichfield Branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association would like to say thank you to the staff for their co-operation and all the people who so kindly donated to our fund raising collection held at Poundland, Cannock on November 27, 2010.

The total amount raised was £176.30.

If anyone is interested in helping GDBA with fund raising or collections please phone Pat on 01543 683937.

PAT WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN/COLLECTIONS
SECRETARY

Short-changed and sold down the river yet again

I WOULD like to comment on the South Staffs Primary Care Trust press release regarding the proposals for two new medical centres for Burnwood.

I should think the people of Burnwood are heartily sick of being consulted and then being short changed or sold down the river.

Once again we have lost out while other areas of South Staffs have had brand new state-of-the-art facilities. Burnwood has to take it on the chin and grin and bare it once again.

In June, the Primary Care Trust issued a press release saying how pleased they were with the consultation and the fact that 2,500 people had responded supporting the preferred option sites of Burnwood leisure

Centre and Greenwood House. Now five months down the line we are being told via a press release designed to confuse and give a pretence that it may still happen that we have to look at Best Value and probably will not be able to afford the two new centres.

Well what about Best Value for the residents of Burnwood and when are we going to stop being treated as second class citizens?

And why have councillors who have been involved in these issues for many years been left out of the circle when it was time to report back on the latest situation, so giving a false picture of the representatives involved?

ERIC N. DRINKWATER
SCHOOL LANE
BURNWOOD

Have yourself a veggie little Christmas

If you want to make your Christmas a festival of goodwill to all living creatures, then please choose a vegetarian Christmas dinner instead of a turkey.

Vegetarian recipes books have many seasonal choices, such as chestnut puree and cranberry sauce in puff pastry, or you can buy a turkey-style vegetarian roast at Holland & Barrett and some branches of Morrisons, Tesco and Waitrose.

Most turkeys are intensively farmed inside large,

overcrowded and dirty sheds. The birds suffer from painful degenerative hip disorders.

Ammonia in the urine-soaked litter causes ulcerated feet and hock burns and can burn away their breast feathers.

Aggression among the stressed birds can lead them to peck each other, causing injuries or even death.

The truth is that most farmed animals, not just

turkeys, endure lives of boredom, frustration, physical pain and misery, and so a wonderful New Year's resolution would be to give up meat completely.

For a free Guide to a Compassionate Christmas, including recipes, please call Animal Aid on 01732 364546 or visit www.animalaid.org.uk. Thank you.

RICHARD MOUNTFORD
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
ANIMAL AID

Thoughtful gifts – and each one makes a real difference

WITH the countdown to Christmas truly on, I wanted to share some last minute gift ideas with your readers – gifts that will make a real difference!

I support the Brooke, a leading international animal welfare charity, and run its Lichfield group.

This fantastic charity has a range of kind and quirky Christ-

mas gifts that go directly towards helping working horses and donkeys, and their owners in the developing world.

Every year the familiar ties, socks and bath bubbles fill our stockings, but how about choosing a Roadside Rehydration pack for dad instead – it will provide a working horse with emergency veterinary treatment, or if your

best friend is a bit of a foodie, then a Healthy Food Pack with fresh green fodder, vitamins and essential minerals is enough to feed 10 horses and donkeys.

Choosing a thoughtful gift for a loved one couldn't be easier. Simply visit www.thebrookeshop.org or call 0845 367 0555 (last order date December 15).

Each gift comes with a choice of gift card and certificate, and is brought to life by a short film available online.

Every gift makes a real difference – what better way to get in to the festive spirit.

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No wonder prices have gone up

IT'S no wonder our gas, electricity and water has gone up in price. How many men does it take to excavate a hole in the footpath?

While out and about I came across a gang of six men, four wagons, a digger and a driver. The hole was about two metres long.

All the workmen had mobile phones in their hands. One had a sweeping brush, I did not see a shovel or pick being used. I could not say if it was

water, gas or electricity, but what a gross waste of manpower and equipment.

I spent all my working life on civil engineering. Two of us would excavate that same hole in a couple of hours and if the damage could be repaired that day, the hole would be back filled and don. Not left open for weeks like what's happening nowadays.

P FLAVAHAN
CANNOCK

Keep on giving the voluntary sector a lifeline

I WOULD like to comment about councils wanting to get suggestion from the public on what they would like to cut in council spending.

Although we know that paid staff are going to go to make the savings that the council must make, some of these services are needed by the public for help and guidance.

I am upset about this and although the council has to do this to save money, there are many organisations around that are manned by volunteers that will take the majority of this work on.

But it seems that these organisations are also having their budgets cut and we are not talking about millions but tens of thousands.

If the council wants to reduce these services then they must realise that the public are the ones that are going to suffer, because they will have nowhere to turn when they need help.

So by all means do yours cuts where most money is going to be saved, but at least keep funding the voluntary sector to give people a lifeline.

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Listed building in the frame for double glazing

AN 18th century Georgian Country House near Rugeley is to become one of the first Grade II listed properties in the country to be allowed to install double glazing.

Colton House, on Bellamour Way, in Colton, has won permission to replace nine large windows at the back of the building. Consent had been initially denied by Lichfield District Council on the advice of conservation experts.

The Planning Inspectorate has now granted permission following an appeal against the decision by owner Ronald Lawrence, who has used part of the building as a bed and breakfast for the last five years.

"The windows are in a poor state of repair and need to be replaced," Mr Lawrence said.

Energy

"English Heritage requested that they were replaced with single glazed windows and this led to the application being turned down.

"But I argued that the amount of energy wasted by these windows is at odds with the government's advice for us to reduce energy waste.

"The council believe I am the first in the country to be allowed this kind of permission."

Mr Lawrence added the ground floor windows were 10ft by 3ft, while the first floor windows were 6ft by 3ft, meaning a lot of energy will be saved by thicker glass.

Planning inspector Brendan Lyons said in his report: "I consider the less than substantial harm caused to the special interest of the building by double-glazing is outweighed by the benefits of replacing inappropriate and degraded frames."



Colton House owner Ron Lawrence

Nod for homes scheme

LONG-awaited plans for a new housing estate in Rugeley have been given the green light.

Lichfield-based Walton Homes has won approval to develop the former Hindley's Bakery site.

Cannock Chase Council planning committee voted unanimously in favour of the plans last Wednesday (December 1), despite hearing that there will no social housing as part of the development.

Instead, the firm will offer £150,000 for affordable housing schemes across the district.

Councillors imposed a condition requiring work to start within six months. The development, off Wharf Road, Brereton, will include 24 houses and 37 flats, including some one-bedroom flats that will be offered for just £75,000.

The meeting was told the planned development will make a loss.

But bosses are keen to press ahead to boost the firm's cashflow.

Evacuation memories

PEOPLE can share their memories of evacuation at a 'Children On The Move' reminiscence event at Cannock Library next week.

From 1pm on Tuesday, December 14, visitors to the Manor Avenue facility are being encouraged to share memories with others. Refreshments will be provided at the free, hour-and-a-half session.

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Pupils in Great Wyrley School choir in their uniforms in 1932 before successfully competing at Stafford Music Festival



The Great Wyrley Royals marchers with one of the many trophies which they won in the Midlands 1978

Young people proud to lead way in village life



Great Wyrley Wednesday, 1962-63 football season

ON A day of triumph nearly eight decades ago a choir from the Cannock area practically swept the board at a major Staffordshire music festival.

The young singers from Great Wyrley High School, in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, took home five first prizes and one runners-up prize after an impressive performance in the Stafford Musical Festival of 1932.

Young people in Great Wyrley were often prominent in showing the village in a good light.

Great Wyrley Wednesday football team were the forerunner for the later Great Wyrley FC and was founded by Harry Hordern.

The club was set up by an early youth club and met on a Wednesday

evening, which is where the name came from. The team was based in hutments next to the Wesleyan Chapel opposite Jones Lane, Great Wyrley.

The Star Inn, a popular pub in the village, often organised Sunday morning breakfast trips for its regulars. A group of boys as well as men would travel to different locations in Staffordshire and the Black Country and enjoy a meal with the pub's landlord.

Before St Mark's Church was built, vestry meetings and even inquests into local mining accidents were held at the Swan Inn. Money was also given out by volunteers to the needy. The Greensill family ran the pub between 1834 and 1901. Landywood



School celebrated the Festival of Britain on May 3, 1951, by planting a tree on the school grounds. It was planted by head boy Norman Perry and head girl Pat Newell. However, the tree is no longer there.

The jazz band The Great Wyrley

Royals enjoyed great success during the 1970s. The troupe, founded and run by Des and Floss Griffiths, won a host of trophies in 1978.

Information and pictures courtesy of Cheslyn Hay: Those Fleeting

Landywood head boy and girl Norman Perry and Pat Newell plant a tree in 1951

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SHOPPERS are in for a treat thanks to local low price department store The Original Factory Shop, which opened a new outlet in Walsall on December 4.

To celebrate the store opening and as an extra special treat for shoppers this Christmas, we've teamed up with The Chronicle to offer readers the chance to win a share of £500 to spend in the new store, which is located at 5/6 Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood.

One lucky winner will get a "shopstastic" £100 of The Original Factory Shop vouchers as a first prize.

There will be four lots of £50 vouchers up for grabs as second prizes and 10 runners-up will each receive £20 gift vouchers to spend.

With the fantastic prices in store you can be sure of your prize money going a long way.

Plus, with Christmas just around the corner you'll be able to pick a trolley full of decorations and gifts perfect for all the family at stunning prices.

The Original Factory Shop Walsall Wood brings an extensive range of men's, ladies' and children's fashions, as well as homewares, electricals and toiletries, including a large selection of branded goods, to the town.

To be in with a chance of winning one of these prizes please answer the following question:

Q. Where is the new store located?

Please send your answers on a postcard to The Chronicle's Factory Competition, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date for entries is Friday December 17

Usual competition terms and conditions apply. All prizes will be in the form of gift vouchers. There is no cash alternative.

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Councillor Mick Grocott, Cannock Chase Council's culture and sport leader, will open the event in his role as chairman of Rugeley Town Council.

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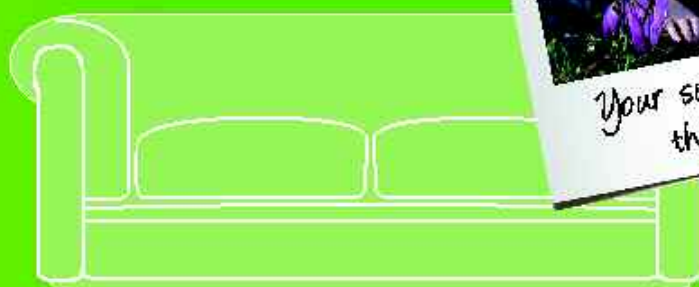


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Incinerator bid sparks health risk concerns



With Santa on the Chasewater special is the engine driver Richard Thompson

CAMPAIGNERS say Cannock Chase residents are being kept in the dark over potential health risks associated with a proposed incinerator.

Biffa has applied to build a waste-fired power plant in plans to expand Cannock's Poplars landfill site. A decision is expected early next year.

Those fighting plans for the Kingswood Lakeside site fear it may endanger health of people nearby. Bosses say it will have a sophisticated air filtration system.

Norton Canes ward district councillor John Beddows wants Biffa to release more information about the filtration system. The incinerator would burn up to 400,000 tonnes of non-hazardous waste a year.

Councillor Beddows said: "We have the lowest age of death in the county. To bring in something that will threaten that is not right. We have been used as a dumping ground for far too long."

Biffa's company plan-

ning manager Jeff Rhodes has told Cannock Chase Council scrutiny committee there was "no credible evidence" of adverse health impacts.

Cannock Chase, Hednesford Town Council and Norton Canes parish all object to the plans.

Spaceship

Aidan Burley MP has also written to county planners outlining his concerns. He described the planned incinerator as "a giant spaceship full of rubbish".

It would generate 34 megawatts of electricity - enough to power around 68,000 homes, Biffa says up to 300 jobs would be created during construction.

The firm has pledged to set up a fund to compensate local communities, which could pay out up to £80,000 a year.

Festive Goodies

PENKRIDGE Goodies are holding a Christmas Fair in aid of a number of local charities this weekend.

It takes place in the Peace Memorial Hall, in Pinfold Lane, from 10am on Saturday (December 11).

Admission is 20p and stalls will include bric-a-brac, books, toys and games, home-made produce and cakes, wood turned items, jewellery, clothing and a tombola. Refreshments will be available.

Thinking of Divorce? We can help...
Throughout December we are offering a **free** family law consultation

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Susan Davies
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Laura Redmond
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Contact Susan or Laura quoting "FDSO."

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E: sdavies@ansonsllp.com

Cannock appointments, contact Laura
T: 01543 267 105
E: lredmond@ansonsllp.com

Web: www.ansonsllp.com

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Are you thinking about divorce?

The decision to divorce is a major hurdle to clear and has lasting consequences. If you are considering divorce then you need to be sure that it is the best course of action. Should you decide that divorce is what you want then I would recommend seeking legal advice, not only to guide you through the process, but to help you seek a fair and sensible settlement.

To get divorced you must have been married for more than a year and the process itself follows a number of set steps which need to be adhered to depending on your situation.

The administrative function of divorce can be relatively

straightforward, problems can arise if documents are incorrectly completed or if there are disagreements between the parties involved. A solicitor can complete all the relevant paperwork and provide advice and guidance at each step of the process. Instructing a solicitor can remove the stress of dealing with the procedural aspects, at what is an emotional time, and if necessary a solicitor can also handle all communications with the other spouse and his/her solicitor.

In terms of timescales if the other spouse does not contest the divorce, then the process of divorce should take around six months. If

the parties cannot agree or there are delays in the completion and submission of papers to the Courts, then this can extend the process. If there are proceedings around children or finances then these will run separately and can take longer than six months.

For a limited time during December 2010, Ansons is offering a free no obligation 30 minute consultation during which any aspect of divorce or family law can be discussed. You can book for your free consultation by contacting Susan Davies on 01543 267 190 / sdavies@ansonsllp.com and quoting 'FDSO'.

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Tree sales give boost to families

ARRIVA Midlands is sponsoring Hednesford Town's under-10s team. Craig Woods, a manager at Arriva's Cannock garage whose son plays for the team, struck the deal.



Midlands Hairdresser of the Year Lewis Moore shaves off the moustache of Ward Lovett director Kerst Ward to celebrate the end of Movember

Ship shape and bristle fashion

Mr Kerst Ward, Interactive director, said: "It's been a great experience for everyone to get involved in, although a slightly prickly one for the 19 of us that grew out our whiskers."

"Lewis was on hand throughout to give us tips on how best to grow and trim a moustache – he evened signed up to the challenge himself."

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Parking blamed as lorries hampered **Bins unemptied as cars block access**

Collections in Holyoake Place, in Rugeley, also had to be abandoned because of ongoing roadworks. Cannock Chase District

"It's also incredibly dangerous as emergency vehicles would struggle to get through. I ask all car owners to make sure they park responsibly at all times, especially during this terrible weather."

Mr Burley claimed £1,190.40 for travel and £2,248.25 for accommodation, while Mr Lefroy, who represents Penkridge, claimed £797.50 in travel expenses. Accommodation costs totalled £1,645 and he lodged a £130.43 claim for advertising.

The visit was arranged by school librarian Donna Keen and was also set up to promote the author's new book, *The Devil's Triangle*, which will be out next April.



Author Mark Robson with pupils Kyle Allcott (aged 12), Matthew Danks, Sasha Bracknall and Shannan Field (all 11)

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Synthpop duo Erasure – performing at Cannock Chase on June 24

Top pop duo join forest gigs line up

POP stars Erasure will play their first live concert in four years next year – in Cannock Chase.

The synthpop duo, namely Andy Bell and Vince Clarke, are the latest big name act to sign up for the Forestry Commission concerts at Birches Valley.

One of the biggest British acts in the 1980s and 90s, Erasure will be performing on Friday, June 24, as part of their Total Pop! tour.

The show forms part of the programme of Forestry Commission Live Music events which feature acts performing in spectacular woodland locations across the country.

Last week, Glaswegian rockers Simple Minds announced they would be playing in Cannock Chase on Saturday, June 25, with support from Star-sailor front man James Walsh.

The Erasure gig coincides with the release of the band's new album which is due to be released in summer 2011. It has been four years since the band toured or recorded any new music.

Singer Andy Bell said: "This wonderful opportunity to perform for the fans in such a unique backdrop feels like

just the right way to jump back in to Erasure after a four year break."

"We're excited to be playing in the woods and really hope it doesn't rain."

Alastair Semple, a forest planner and spokesman for the Forestry Commission, said: "We're thrilled to be hosting two of the biggest established bands on the circuit."

"We sold more than 1,000 tickets for Simple Minds in the first 24 hours they were on sale. I'm sure it will be the same for Erasure who have a huge fanbase."

Proceeds

This week, Erasure announced the release of a new version of their top five single A Little Respect. Proceeds from the track will be donated to charity.

Formed 25 years ago, the award-winning duo unleashed a succession of influential and chart-topping pop anthems including Sometimes, Victim Of Love, Ship Of Fools, Blue Savannah, Who Needs Love (Like That), Love To Hate You, Drama!

Tickets for the show cost £34.50 and go on sale at 9am tomorrow (Friday). Call the Forestry Commission box office on 03000 680400, or buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music

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The Prince of Wales is situated just outside the town centre and has the opportunity to cater for a number of different markets. There is a

large family community close by, as well as many younger people who want a place to socialise and watch sports, possibly Sky, which has previously been very successful at the pub. There is also a good sized evening kitchen offering a great opportunity to serve bar food, offer a range of drinks and possibly develop a takeaway offer as it is in an ideal location.

The Prince of Wales needs a landlord who can earn the respect of the local community and understand its varied clientele.

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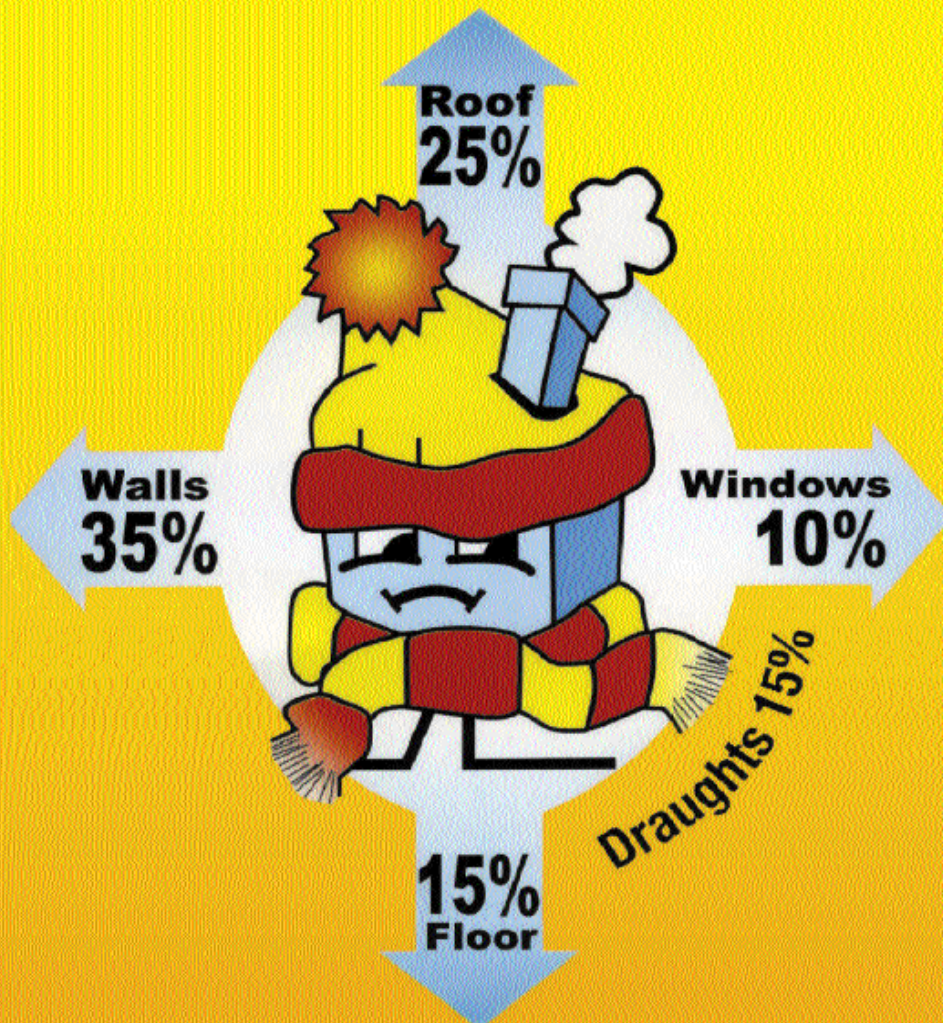
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Lorry driver sentenced to four years for death crash

A LONG-SERVING lorry driver who killed a van driver in a head-on smash has been jailed for four years.

Pensioner Dennis Martin had been driving for a long time when his articulated lorry hit David Roberts' van. Stafford crown court heard Martin had been speeding and was on the phone when the accident happened on the Cannock bypass.

Mr Roberts, a 43-year-old father, of Brereton Road, Rugeley, was killed instantly.

Martin, who had also fiddled his tachometer to 'lose' some of his driving hours, told police after the accident he thought he was on a dual carriageway.

But the Cannock Bypass, where the accident happened in the early hours of December 7 last year, was clearly road marked for two-way traffic, said Mr Nick Burn, prosecuting.

Martin, aged 65, from Kirkcaldy in Scotland, admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

The lorry driver was also banned from driving for eight years by the court.

Judge John Maxwell told Martin he had caused "devastation" to Mr Roberts' family and there were a number of aggravating features of the crime.

"You had been driving for a long time and you had falsified your tachometer. You were on the phone at the time of

the accident and you had been for 20 minutes. I acknowledge this was a hands-free phone, but even that creates a distraction.

He added: "The combination of being tired and distracted led to this accident. You were travelling at an excessive speed, going as fast as the lorry would go."

Mr Burn said the speed limit for a lorry on the bypass was 40mph, but Martin was travelling at 56mph. That's the maximum the vehicle would be

capable of because of a speed limiting device. Mr Burn told the court Martin had set off from Scotland the evening before, but had only inserted his tachograph when he got to a service station in Cumbria.

A woman friend was with him in the cab at the time.

Mr Philip Bradley, defending, said Martin had been using a lawful mobile phone.

He said Martin had been driving for 45 years until the accident but intended never to drive again

Chance to give blood

BLOOD donation sessions are taking place at Cannock Chase Council's Civic Centre in Beecroft Road next week.

The National Blood Service is holding the sessions between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and again from 4.30pm to 7.30pm on Monday (December 14).

New and existing donors are welcome to attend the sessions.

Call 0300 123 2323 to make an appointment for the day.



Tracey Crowther and Lisa Webb, of Cheslyn Hay are dressed to impress for the Santa Run

Festive fundraiser sees Santas on run

TWO festive fundraisers from Cheslyn Hay donned red suits to take part in a fundraising 'Santa Run'.

Tracey Crowther and Lisa Webb, of Cheslyn Hay, braved the Arctic conditions to take part in the Acorns Hospice Santas on the Run event at Walsall Arboretum last Sunday (December 5).

Hundreds slipped into Santa suits to walk the annual 3km route, raising funds for Acorns Children's Hospice, which helps terminally ill children.

Santa runners were welcomed by Acorns' chief executive David Strudley and Mayor of Walsall Councillor Gary Clarke as they gathered at Centre Green.

In its three hospices across the heart of England, Acorns cares for nearly 600 life-limited and life threatened children and 800 families, including those that are bereaved.

There is no charge to families for the services but it does cost £4,500 per day to run each hospice and the charity relies on donations for the majority of its income.

Santas on the Run is a national series of fun runs organised by children's hospices.

Delays for train users

RAIL commuters travelling between Cannock, Hednesford, Rugeley, Walsall and Birmingham suffered delays of up to 30 minutes due to a signalling fault in the Tame Bridge Parkway area.

Fourteen services were hit between 5.30am and 10am on Monday (December 6), due to a faulty transformer.

London Midland spokesman Richard Lakin said the fault had been fixed but there were expected delays while the backlog of services was cleared.

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thechronicle

Reward on flytipping

FLYTIPPERS across the Chase are being warned to think twice over the festive period. Cannock Chase District Council is offering a £100 reward to anyone reporting such an incident.

The incentive will see residents reap the payment if any information they provide leads to a successful prosecution.

The authority said with new household items often bought for Christmas, the potential for flytipping increased. There is also a noticeable rise in

cardboard packaging and wrapping paper waste. The maximum fine at magistrates' court for a flytipping offence is £50,000 and criminals can get up to five years in prison.

Councillor Tony Williams, Cannock Chase Council Environment Leader, said the council had a zero-tolerance approach.

"We will always prosecute where there is sufficient evidence. The reward scheme sends an important message to these environmental criminals – the public is watching."

"Flytipping is offensive, illegal and it blights our area."

Anyone who spots a flytipping incident they are asked to make a note of the time and date, location, description of waste, vehicle registration number and a description of the flytippers themselves.

They should then call Cannock Council on 01543 462621 or fill out a form at www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Festive cuppa at wildlife base

STAFFORDSHIRE Wildlife Trust is inviting nature lovers to join them for a cup of festive cheer at its Wolsley Visitor Centre tomorrow (Friday).

The charity is staging a coffee morning from 10am to noon at its Wolsley Bridge headquarters.

Stalls will be selling cupcakes in a variety of flavours, plus jam, jewellery, second hand books and Christmas wreaths. There will also be a chance to stock up on presents in the centre's gift shop, which sells toys, books, stocking fillers, homewares, calendars, clothing, and cards.

Membership officer Sarah Parker said: "Supporting our coffee morning is one way you can help local wildlife and conservation across the county. You could take a walk around the grounds and then warm up and enjoy a cake in the visitor centre."

Admission to the coffee morning is £1, which includes a hot or cold drink, and all proceeds from the event will go towards the trust's work carrying out conservation projects, environmental education and managing 30 reserves across the county.

The Wolsley Centre is located on the A51 between Stafford and Rugeley, next to the Wolsley Bridge Garden Centre. For more information, call Sarah Parker on 01889 880109.



Membership officer Sarah Parker gets ready for the coffee morning

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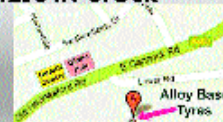
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YOUR EIGHT-PAGE
ENTERTAINMENT
GUIDE AND WEEK'S
TV VIEWING



Twankey panky as Biggins joins
panto cast – see page 34



Glenn's homage to home – page 34



The cast of Beyond the Barricade at Christmas, which returns by popular demand to the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock on December 16

GO BEYOND THE BARRICADE

BACK by popular demand, Beyond the Barricade at Christmas returns to Cannock next week.

One of the most successful touring shows of its kind is returning with a brand new production for 2010.

A cast of past principal performers from Les Miserables perform all the great songs and moments of the West End and Broadway musicals, including some Christmas classics to get audiences in the yuletide spirit.

The production will include songs from Miss Saigon, The Lion King, Phantom Of The Opera, Love Never Dies, Mamma

• Pulse is taking a Christmas break but will be back in the New Year

Mia, Blood Brothers, The Jersey Boys and climaxing with a spectacular finale from Les Miserables.

The star of the show is Andy Reiss, who hails from Cannock. He has worked as cast in the first UK production of Les Miserables to appear outside of the West End.

Director

Andy stayed with Les Miserables throughout its residency at the Palace Theatre in Manchester. He has also performed in Les Miserables in Dublin and Edinburgh and after a two year

break from the show he returned as resident director for the first national tour.

Most recently Andy worked as MD on a new production of The Rocky Horror Show and has also produced UK tours including Pure Puccini, Money Money Money, Kingdom of Song, and Sing for Victory.

Tickets for Beyond the Barricade at Christmas, on at the Prince of Wales Centre on Thursday, December 16, are £17. To book call 01543 578762.

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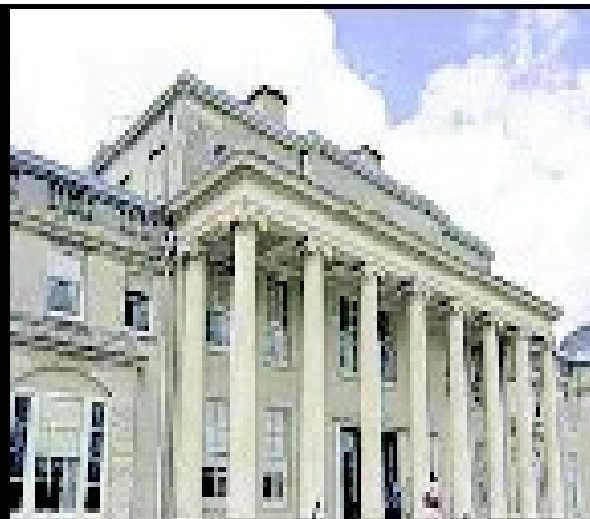
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REVIEWS

An Evening with Gervase Phinn, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock.

JESUS came from an egg. How? Because Mary laid him in a manger.

Or at least that's how one young girl saw it in the world according to raconteur and professional Yorkshireman Gervase Phinn.

Phinn was on form with his endless stream of observations, poignant tales and anecdotes which he has collected through many years as an Ofsted inspector in and around the Yorkshire Dales.

He kept the almost packed Prince of Wales audience enthralled and at one point, recounting a story inspired by The Beatles' Eleanor Rigby about a dying priest named Father McKenzie and his innocent and inspiring relationship with a young boy.

Phinn's appeal is he has never lost the ability to think and see life from a child's point of view. His stories range from being given a lesson on sheep by an eight year old expert while trying desperately to recount the parable of the lost sheep, to feeling awkward about having to go back to his own boyhood schools and assess the teachers who taught him.

Phinn has a clarity and incisiveness which doesn't use smut, offensive behaviour or language and is a refreshing alternative to a lot of the sneering and cynicism around today.

And what is innuendo? According to one of Phinn's subjects it's an Italian suppository.

Danny Farragher

Peter Pan, Lichfield Garrick Theatre

HE'S the star of the CBBC shows Bear Behaving Badly and Prank Patrol. Now Barney Harwood is entertaining children of all ages in the Lichfield Garrick pantomime.

The likeable Harwood gives a good performance as the boy who never grows up, demonstrating a more than adequate



Barney Harwood as Peter Pan singing voice. Harwood particularly revels in the 'flying' scenes, enjoying mingling with the audience and dropping so-called fairy dust into the arena.

He doesn't have Nev the Bear for company this time around, but he does have dad Barnaby. A Garrick panto veteran, Barnaby, as Smee, provides the majority of laughs and one-liners. He forms a brilliant partnership with the writer and director Ian Adams, who plays both Mr Darling and the villainous Captain Hook. The cabin routine is particularly well-written and delivered.

And there's lots of lovely Lolly in the form of the 90s 'Mickey' pop star, aka Anna Kumble who proved her versatility with a fine singing voice and a good performance as the housemaid Liza and Tiger Lily.

And, while all the cast can be commended for roles they clearly enjoyed playing, special mention must be made to Lisa-Marie Holmes. She doubled up as Mrs Darling and the Mermaid, but has magical vocals. Wendy played by Lisa Holliman, was note perfect throughout.

Special effects allowed Tinkerbell to be an integral part of the plot, while the show ended with a wonderful medley, from Fame, to Crocodile Rock and I Will Survive - all done in traditional panto style, of course.

Peter Pan runs until January 9. **Mark Shipp**

Former soap stars line up for Cinderella

SOAP stars Nick Cochrane and Mark Homer are gearing up for this year's pantomime at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock.

Cinderella runs for a week from Christmas Eve, excluding Christmas Day, with shows at 2.30pm and 7pm.

Cochrane, known to millions as Steve McDonald's twin brother Andy in Coronation Street, plays Prince Charming.

Mark Homer, who played Tony Hills in EastEnders, takes on the role of Buttons in his third Prince of Wales performance. PMA Productions has

organised the pantomime alongside Cannock Chase Council.

Tickets are selling fast and are available by calling the box office on 01543 578762.

They cost £13 for adults, £11 concessions and £40 for a family ticket of four.

Visit Pantoland – where the nursery rhyme greats live

A CAST of 35 pantomime and nursery characters is getting together for a special show in Rugeley this weekend.

Stars Academy present Pantoland, where panto and nursery rhyme greats live even when they're not performing.

Audiences are invited to cheer on the beloved Aladdin, Jack and his magic beans, Dorothy, scarecrow and Tin Man. Or if they prefer to boo, Pantoland has Elphaba, Jafar and the Big Bad Wolf.

Pantoland's police department, the three little pigs, will attempt to solve a very unusual crime while Goldilocks, Dick Whittington, Snow White and her Seven Dwarfs and Robin Hood all make appearances.

The show has been written by academy drama teacher Simon Stokes and is a completely original script.

The cast comprise students aged from 10 years to 17 years-old, with the help of some younger students aged just four to six.

Academy principal Jacqui Stokes said: "They are amazing for their age and will put on a fantastic show."

"We are both really proud of them."

Pantoland is a family-based show catering for young children and parents alike.

Performances will take place on Saturday December 11 at 7.30pm and Sunday 12 at 2.30pm, at the Rose Theatre on Taylors Lane.

Tickets are priced at just £7 adults and £6 concessions, while group discounts are available to groups of 25 or more. Contact the academy on 07812 073283 for details.

Double header of yuletide crackers

TWO shows have been lined up at the Prince of Wales Centre to get residents in the festive spirit. A Newlife Christmas Cracker, performed in aid of the local charity by Chads Moor Choral Society takes place on Friday (December 17).

The classic Christmas sing-along comes complete with yuletide favourites, entertainment, a raffle, mince pies and lots more surprises. Tickets are £6 for adults, £5 concessions or £20 for a family of four.

The following evening, the glamour and glitz of Las Vegas heads to the Prince of Wales for one night only. Martyn Lucas the star of the show for the One Night in Vegas Christmas Party. Tickets are £17.50. For more information on both shows, or to book tickets, call the box office on 01543 578762.

Talon-ted group recreates magic sound of The Eagles

RECOGNISED as the definitive exponents of recreating the magic sound of The Eagles, Talon come to the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock later this month.

Talon – Best of the Eagles, features a track for track, note for note performance of seminal album Hotel California, plus a host of other Eagles classics.

The band is mostly Midlands-based, with vocalist Tony Vegas from Walsall and Jonny Miller on bass guitar from Redditch.

Fellow lead vocalist Chris Lloyd originates from Nuneaton, while guitarist Peter Anderson resides in Hinckley. The band's new production is said to promise yet another stunning show for existing and new fans alike.

The first half of the show features each track from Hotel California, an

album which spawned hits such as New Kid In Town, Life In The Fast Lane, Wasted Time, Last Resort and of course Hotel California.

The second half delivers classic hits taken from all the Eagles albums, three more of which reached number one in the US; One of These Nights, The Long Run and 2007's Long Road out of Eden.

A spokesman for the Prince of Wales Centre said: "Talon's ability to go from strength to strength in delivering bigger and better shows year on year continues with what promises to be an event."

Tickets for Talon – Best of the Eagles, which takes place next Wednesday (December 15), are priced £18.

Call the box office on 01543 578762 for details.

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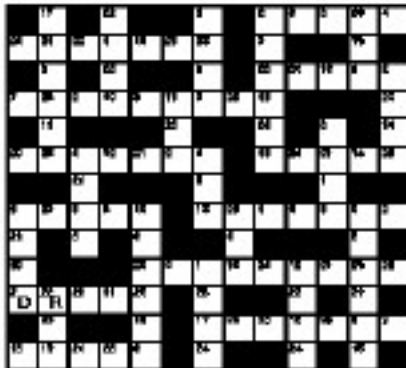


Brain Gym

No.094

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
I W C J E Z U A Q L K N O
G B P Y D H R X V S F M T



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Double Crossword

Choose different words or phrases down both in the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Goodwin's wife is an producing team (2,4)
2. A kind of bird (4)
3. The name of a famous (2)
4. His is a famous (2)
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Quick Clues:

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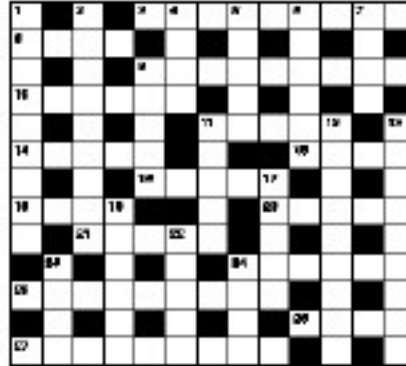
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Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters which touch it can be arranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



Numbers in first circle only.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
DOWN: 1. A kind of (2), 2. A kind of (2), 3. A kind of (2), 4. A kind of (2), 5. A kind of (2), 6. A kind of (2), 7. A kind of (2), 8. A kind of (2), 9. A kind of (2), 10. A kind of (2), 11. A kind of (2), 12. A kind of (2), 13. A kind of (2), 14. A kind of (2), 15. A kind of (2), 16. A kind of (2), 17. A kind of (2), 18. A kind of (2), 19. A kind of (2), 20. A kind of (2), 21. A kind of (2), 22. A kind of (2), 23. A kind of (2), 24. A kind of (2), 25. A kind of (2), 26. A kind of (2).

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
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Spectacular show, a 3D genie and lashings of Twankey panky

ONE of Britain's best loved celebrities, Christopher Biggins, is promising Wolverhampton a spectacular Grand pantomime this winter.

The actor and reality TV star is a veteran of 39 pantos but reckons Aladdin, which opens at the Grand on Saturday, could be the best yet.

"It is what I call a good old-fashioned London Palladium pantomime and what I mean by that is we have unbelievable scenery. I have been doing pantomime for 38 years and I haven't done one with scenery like this, with costumes that are so lavish and an amazing cast."

The show is a tweaked version of the production of Aladdin that broke box office records in Plymouth last year, in which veteran dame Biggins again played Widow Twankey.

"Everyone we did the panto with last year is coming back except for Aladdin and Wishee-Washee and we have put those roles together and have the amazing ventriloquist Paul Zerdin. He is brilliant."

Christopher Biggins talks to LEON BURAKOWSKI about panto, Porridge and paying the mortgage.

"And we have a 3D genie... oh yes we do!" Cue familiar booming laugh.

"When I saw it in rehearsal I was absolutely blown away. It cost a lot of money and the running costs are huge for it. When Abanazar and Aladdin are in the cave with this extraordinary genie, you can see the kids trying to catch the spiders. It is phenomenal."

"It is going to be a spectacular pantomime, one of the most spectacular Wolverhampton has staged."

Biggins also has a key role in the region's other big pantomime this winter but not on stage... it was he who encouraged his close friend Joan Collins to make her panto debut this year, playing Queen Rat in Dick Whittington at Birmingham Hippodrome.

"We were talking about the fact a job had fallen

through over Christmas and New Year and I said come on Joan why don't you do a pantomime. I told her she would be great. I think I sowed the seed. Sadly I don't think I will be able to see her perform but I know she's going to be fantastic. We will get together for dinner on our night off."

But another one of his celebrity pals will be calling in at the Grand for one of the performances.

Career

"Cilla (Black) will be coming to Wolverhampton because she is not doing a pantomime herself this year," said the star, whose early roles included such TV classics as the drama I, Claudius, and prison sitcom Porridge with Ronnie Barker.

"I am very lucky, I have a very varied, interesting and good career. I loved Nero in I, Claudius, and Ozzy Whitworth in Poldark from my straight acting years. I loved Surprise Surprise with Cilla, I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here and Come Dine With Me."

"As long as I can plod along and pay the mortgage - well, thankfully, I paid that off last year - I am happy to be able to live a full life."

He loves art - he once bought a Hockney for £150 that's now worth £10,000 - and technology, his most treasured possession is his iPhone, he says, and he enjoys holidays in Mauritius.

But he always makes sure he is available for the panto season. "I love the audience participation and I love to make an audience laugh and that it is for everyone, from three to 93."

"When I did the 'Jungle' I didn't do a pantomime that year, so I went and saw 15 pantomimes. I went all over the country. It was wonderful."

Aladdin is staged at the Grand from December 11 to January 30.



Christopher Biggins

Glenn communing with the Black Country

GOOD news for fans of Anglo-American rock supergroup Black Country Communion - who perform their debut UK gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 29 - frontman Glenn Hughes is already working on songs for their second album.

The former Deep Purple and Trapeze singer, who hails from Cannock, revealed that BCC is no 'one-off' project when talking to The Chronicle from his hillside home in sunny California, which he shares with wife Gabrielle. "I love England but not the cold and the rain," he admitted.

The band features Hughes on vocals and bass guitar, drummer Jason Bonham, the Dudley-born son of the late Led Zeppelin sticksman John Bonham, with Americans - guitarist Joe Bonamassa and keyboardist Derek Sherinian. Their self-titled debut album - a slab of classic bluesy hard rock - has been a big success.

"I have prepared a lot of songs, we've probably got three-quarters of the next album," said Glenn.

"Joe (Bonamassa) and Kevin (Shirley, the producer) both live in LA and we get together at Kevin's studio in Malibu. It's very cohesive and organic. I bring my songs. Joe brings his and we finish each other's songs. I have a studio at home and sometimes I have to remind myself to get out of there," said Glenn, a former rock wildman who has cleaned up his act.

Thankful

"Songwriting is what I do and I do it every day, even on Christmas Day. I am known as a rock singer, and I appreciate and am thankful for that but primarily I am a songwriter. Those creative urges get stronger the further I get from the days when I would get high or drunk."

He reckons it's fate that has brought the four of them together in a band after years of friendship, a lifetime's worth when it comes to Jason Bonham.

"I knew Jason before he knew me," said Glenn. "I remember when he was a two-year-old, John (his father) was a friend of mine and I was like an uncle

to Jason. He's my friend's son and I love him to bits."

"I believe in fate and in karma. I had a dream which told me I was going to be in a rock 'n' roll band again. I was all set to make another funky Glenn record but I put the brakes on... and three weeks later I'm in this band Black Country Communion."

The name references Glenn and Jason's roots in the West Midlands.

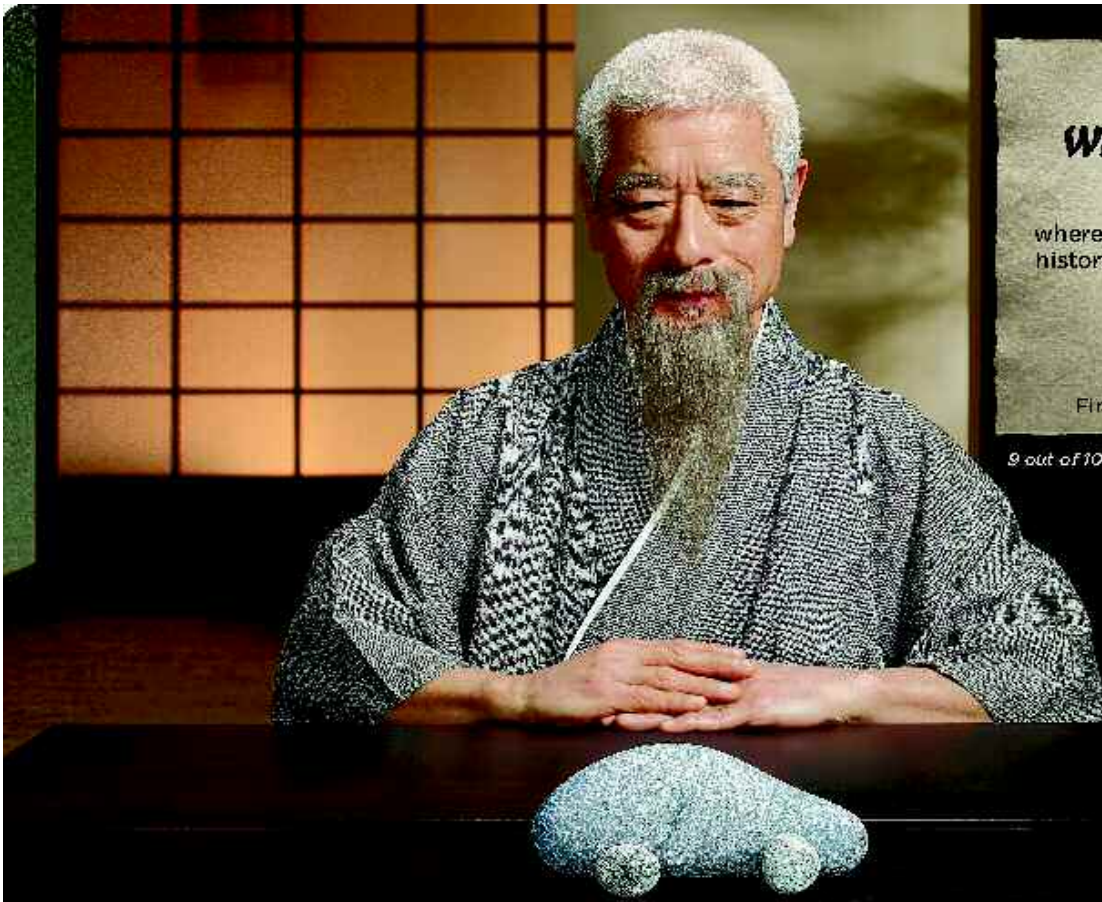
"It was very important to me and to Jason that the first gig be at Wolverhampton Civic Hall. That really means something to us. It's a great rock venue in the heart of the Black Country. We've got to play where the name came from."

"I've played the venue about ten times but not in recent years. I played there with my first band The News in 1968, then in '69 with Finders Keepers, then several times with Trapeze and then with Deep Purple a couple of times."

Just before heading down the canyon to record at Malibu, Glenn signed off with a cheery "Up the Wolves!"



From left, Glenn Hughes with Jason Bonham on drums and Joe Bonamassa



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land to the west of pye green road hednesford public exhibition

A draft development brief has been prepared for land north of Limepit Lane, known locally as Blewitt's Farm or Common Farm, in Hednesford.

It shows how the site could be developed for up to 750 houses, a school, local centre, church, large areas of open space - including allotments and sports pitches - and road improvements.

Please let us know what you like, dislike and want to see changed. We are holding four public exhibitions in Hednesford - come along and let us know what you think.

**Thursday 9th December, 4pm to 7pm and
Friday 10th December, 3pm to 6pm
Pye Green Community Centre, Broadhurst Green**

**Monday 13th and Monday 20th December, 3.30pm to 6.30pm
Hednesford library, Market Street**

Council officers and representatives from developers will be there to answer your questions.

If you can't make it, you can view the development brief and give us your views at www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Documents are also available to view at the Council's area office in Hednesford (in Hednesford library) and at the Civic Centre in Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Comments can also be posted to us at Planning Policy, Cannock Chase Council, PO Box 28, Beecroft Road, Cannock WS11 1BG.

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The top property guide for Cannock, Heath Hayes, Penkridge, Great Wyrley, Rugeley, Hednesford, Burntwood and Lichfield



To arrange a viewing of 140 Lower Birches Way in Rugeley, call the agent C residential on 01889 583377

Offers of £209,995 are invited for family home

NUMBER 140 Lower Birches Way in Rugeley is on the market with the agent C residential in Stafford for offers in the region of £209,995.

The well-presented, detached family home has four bedrooms with uPVC double-glazed windows and gas central heating.

Approach to the house is via a block-paved driveway, with parking for several vehicles, which leads to a garage with an up-and-over door.

A gate leads to an enclosed rear garden with a paved patio, steps up to a lawn with borders, a shed and outside tap.

Entry to the house is through the main

hallway where stairs lead to the first floor and there is also a WC. To the front of the house is a lounge which measures 17ft 10in x 11ft 1in. Features include a fireplace with inset gas fire on marble-effect hearth, two radiators, two ceiling light points, coving, a television point and window with walk-in bay.

Acrylic

Fitted with a range of wall and base cupboards is the breakfast kitchen measuring 12ft 2in x 11ft.

There are work surfaces, incorporating an acrylic sink with mixer tap, tiled splashback, electric oven with gas hob and extractor hood over.

There is also space for appliances, a laminate floor, ceiling light points, radiator,

two windows to the rear, door to the garden and utility.

Once upstairs, the first floor landing is approached from the hallway and has two ceiling light points, loft access, airing cupboard and uPVC double-glazed window.

The master bedroom measures 14ft 10in x 10ft and includes built-in wardrobes, two windows to the front and an en suite shower room.

The other three bedrooms also include a ceiling light point, radiator and uPVC double-glazed windows.

On the first floor there is also a family bathroom with a suite to include a panel bath, low-level WC, pedestal wash basin with tiled splashback.

For further information or to arrange a viewing, call 01889 583377.

Apartment close to town centres an ideal first buy

BROMLEYS estate agents are offering for sale this well-presented one bedroom ground floor apartment on a popular development in Heath Hayes.

An ideal first buy, 27 Heath Way lies in close proximity to the town centres of both Hednesford and Cannock and is on the market for £78,500.

In brief the property comprises of: hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, WC, bathroom and allocated parking.

Entrance to the building is via security intercom, while entrance to the property itself is via a double-glazed door leading into the hall.

The hall has doors off to all rooms, airing cupboard and smoke alarm.

The lounge has laminate flooring, dado rail, telephone point, centre ceiling light, feature glass block window, coved ceiling, electric heater and a double-glazed window overlooking the front of the property.

Plumbing

The kitchen consists of a range of wall and base units with under lights, tiled splash backs, stainless steel sink and drainer with mixer taps, extractor fan, space for electric cooker and fridge freezer, plumbing for washing machine, coved ceiling, feature glass block window allowing light in from the lounge.

The bedroom has a window overlooking the rear, a ceiling light, wardrobe space, coved ceiling and electric heater.

The WC has a ceiling light and line to the floor, while the bathroom incorporates an off-white suite, electric shower over the bath, pedestal sink, partially tiled and double-glazed window to the rear of the property.

There is allocated parking at the property.

For more details, or for a viewing, contact the agents on 01543 878111.



27, Heath Way - an ideal first purchase



The living room at the ground floor one-bedroom apartment

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HOMEOWNERS across the UK are preparing themselves for the time of year when heating bills rocket and come January we'll see the dreaded VAT hike.

The good news is that the inside of your home does not have to resemble an igloo as you try to cut back on heating to save money.

NHBC, the leading home warranty and insurance provider for new homes in the UK, offers advice on how you can prepare your home for the chilly weather ahead and enjoy a toasty warm home while keeping costs down.

- Insulating your home is key. New homes are built to higher insulation standards and have more efficient heating systems which are kinder to the environment and mean lower heating bills. However, if your home is older, it's important to insulate where possible. Lined curtains at the windows and also on front and back doors reduce drafts and keep heat in.
- One of the most obvious and easiest ways you can cut your fuel bill is to turn the temperature down, (ideally keep temperatures between 21 and 24 degrees centigrade though) however, reducing the temperature by 10C could reduce your heating costs by 10 per cent.

Warming to ways of cutting heating bills

- Heating system – it is important that all gas boilers are serviced once a year, so find out when your boiler was last checked. Contact a Gas Safe certified installer (Gas Safe Register replaced the CORGI gas register in 2009) to carry out an annual check and to make sure you are getting the most from your heating system.
- Radiators – are they cold at the top but hot at the bottom? If so, the likely cause is trapped air, which should be released using the valve at the top of the radiator. Also, leave radiators and heaters uncovered – most heat comes from the top of a radiator so let them work as efficiently as possible.
- Keep doors closed. It is important to isolate the warm air in your rooms by keeping internal doors shut whenever possible.
- Shut your curtains – it may not seem like a big step but air trapped between the cur-

tains and windows will act as a buffer between cool window panes and the warmth of the room, saving money on your heating bill.

- Be energy aware – remember to switch lights off when you leave a room. Turn off the heating if you open your windows and avoid using stand-by on electrical appliances.
- Use low energy light bulbs – switch from conventional light bulbs to low energy ones. Although they might seem a bit pricey they will save money in the long run because they use less electricity and could last up to 12 times longer.
- Choose the right size pan for the food and cooker and keep the lids on when cooking – you'll reduce cooking time and the energy used.

For more money-saving tips go to www.nhbc.co.uk



It's important to insulate where possible



Small savings can mount up and keep those energy bills down

Make sure your neighbours are not barking mad

It's important to do vital checks when buying a home to avoid having problems later



IN the light of the ongoing disputes over the height of trees surrounding a property, County Homesearch warns of the importance of carrying out checks on a new neighbourhood before buying a home. The home-finding company always carries out checks on prospective neighbours for its clients, as a difficult next door neighbour could take thousands off the value of a house.

With more than 20 years experience of finding homes for clients throughout the UK, Jonathan Haward, founder and chairman of County Homesearch, says: "All our home buying agents are required to carry out discreet checks on neighbours, who may cause misery later on or in the worst scenario could actually reduce the value of a home by many thousands or even make it unsaleable."

According to the County Homesearch

archive, the main causes of disputes are:

- Hedges and trees: Leylandii are a particular cause for disagreement as are overhanging trees and bushes.
- Shared access drives can lead to disputes over who is responsible for maintenance.
- Noise: An increasing problem as modern day sound systems and televisions are so powerful.
- Parking spaces: Driveways obstructed or selfish parking in shared drives.
- Party walls: Disputes arise over who is responsible for maintenance.
- Noisy pets: Barking dogs left unattended are a frequent cause of disputes.
- Smells: Blocked drains or broken septic tanks.

Carol Peett, director for West Wales, comments: "I always make a point of visiting a house at different times of day and listening out."

"On one occasion a lovely house seemingly in a secluded position suffered from periodic noise from a quarry and when the wind was in the west you could hear the crashing of machinery. Another lovely riverside house had shared access and I heard that the neighbour was difficult and so warned my client."

"On another occasion I was looking at a property on behalf of a retired couple and noticed the house next door had a large trampoline in the garden. This set alarm bells ringing as it probably meant noisy children – who in law can not constitute a nuisance. I regard it as part of the job to find out everything I can about a property. I ask in the pub about the neighbours and will always inform our clients if there is a problem."

"Sellers are duty bound to reveal to their buyer if they have had a problem with a neighbour but only if the neighbour has been reported to the police or the local authority."

Jonathan Haward adds: "We can carry out official checks on neighbours for a small fee if clients request this, but all our directors invariably try to find out what they can through informal enquiries and observation and visit a property at different times."

"It's amazing what you can discover – that a house is situated on a rat run to a school or a motorway. Doing the homework on a house is vital if you want to preserve your sanity and protect your privacy."

● The County Homesearch Company is the largest independent network of homefinders in the UK with 20 offices in the UK and with coverage in London, Ireland and Scotland.

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Tall trees are a particular cause for disagreement as are overhanging bushes

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- 1070 sq ft
- Double Glazing
- Downing
- Range for Improvements

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- Three Bedrooms
- Downing
- 1070 sq ft
- Double Glazing
- Downing
- Range for Improvements

£119,950

Home of Property

The lounge at the Mill Croft showhome

Interest to increase as showhome opens

WITH buyers having even more to choose from in the current marketplace, Cameron Homes are encouraging buyers to visit their new Mill Croft to see why the locally-based developer is rapidly garnering a reputation for superior quality.

Already attracting high interest and footfall from potential buyers, interest in the newly launched development at Handsacre is only set to increase with the opening of its

new showhome. With just 14 semi-detached and detached three-bedroom properties priced from just £107,960 based on an 80/20 shared equity scheme, the expertly designed showhome sets the standard of quality at the niche development and aptly demonstrates exactly why Cameron Homes' properties are so popular with purchasers.

Andy Gough, sales director for Cameron Homes, said: "We place great emphasis on delivering a high quality product and take pride in creating homes that people aspire to live in. Each property at each develop-

ment has been thoughtfully designed and constructed to the highest standard with every detail considered.

"We deliberately do not follow the footsteps of volume house-builders, opting instead to create small and select developments that engender a sense of community and pride. Mill Croft is an excellent example of this ethos."

With a selection of properties already on sale at Mill Croft, Cameron has already successfully reserved their first property on the opening weekend.

The initial build complete is scheduled for early 2011.

The properties each benefit from an open plan lounge and dining room which opens out onto a large turfed rear garden and has washrooms on both floors. All are fitted with high specification Roca sanitaryware and fully integrated Hatt kitchens with appliances.

A fully furnished showhome and demonstration home are available for viewing purposes, purchasers can buy into a striking orange and black colour scheme and distinctive artwork which has been used to show off the potential of the new homes on a neutral toned background for walls and flooring.

Countryside

Located off Tuppenhurst Lane, within easy reach of the wealth of amenities of both Rugeley and Lichfield, Mill Croft is within the catchment area of a range of highly regarded primary schools and just minutes away from beautiful rolling countryside.

The town also has excellent transport links, including a choice of stations for the railway network and the M6 Toll.

The Mill Croft showhome is open to view from 11am-5pm Thursday to Monday.

For more information contact sales negotiator Janet on 01543 491504 or the Cameron Homes sales hotline on 08000 126350 or visit www.cameronhomes.co.uk.

Connells are also representing the scheme and can be contacted on 01543 262376 or lichfield@connells.co.uk.

There is also one four-bedroom family home remaining at Cameron Homes' The Meadows development in Rugeley, priced at £229,950.

The detached property is on a secluded and peaceful private cul-de-sac and comes complete with flooring throughout.

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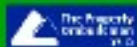
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- Annex with own Bathroom
- GCH, Rear Parking
- Rear Garden
- No Chain

£100,000

HEATHSTONE ROAD, CANNOCK



- Detached Family Home
- Porch, Hallway, Opened up
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Family Bathroom
- Garden Room
- Driveway, D. Garage

£120,000

FOOTHILL CLOSE, BOTTLE FARM



- Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Guest W.C.
- Hallway, Lounge
- Conservatory, Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom, GCH, UPVC D. Glass
- Double Garage, Gardens

£80,990

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£80,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

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WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

OLD FALLOW ROAD, CANNOCK



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£80,000

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£120,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£110,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,990

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£114,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£110,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£110,990

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
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- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
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- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



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- 2nd Floor

£100,990

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



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- 2nd Floor

£100,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



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WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



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£100,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



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- Lounge, Dining Room
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£100,990

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
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- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

WINDSOR ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
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- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,000

PORTAL WOODS ROAD, HEATH HAVEN



- Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2nd Floor
- 3 Bedrooms
- GCH, Upvc D. Glass
- Garden, Driveway
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor
- 2nd Floor

£100,990

Bairstow eves

Countrywide

Cannock 01543 503678

cannock@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

Water Orton Road, Birmingham



£55,000 NEW

- Bt
- One Bedroom
- Living Room
- Bath / Shower room
- Kitchen / Dining

Kendrick Avenue, Birmingham



£55,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining



Lensall Croft, Birmingham

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining



Holly Lodge Walk, Birmingham

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining



Augustine Close, Colton Hill

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Lensall Croft, Birmingham



£55,000 NEW

- Bt
- One Bedroom
- Living Room
- Bath / Shower room
- Kitchen / Dining

Chiswick Walk, Birmingham



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Hersley Road, Stratford



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

St Anne Way, Birmingham



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

St Anne Way, Birmingham



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

St Anne Way, Birmingham



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Centon Avenue, West Bromwich



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Temple Road, Willenhall



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining



Cratcliffe Road, Wolverhampton

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Corner Street, Willenhall



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Chiswick Drive, Willenhall



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining



Chiswick Close, Nuneaton

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Peyser Road, Nuneaton



£65,000 NEW PRICE

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Burley Avenue, Nuneaton



£65,000 NEW PRICE

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Roseville Road, Cannock



£65,000 NEW PRICE

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Ullin Avenue, Cannock



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Scott Street, Cannock



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Norton East Road, Cannock



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Chiswick Drive, Heath Hayes



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Orly Court, Heath Hayes



£65,000 NEW

- Kitchen / Dining
- Bath / Shower room
- Living Room
- Bedroom
- Kitchen / Dining

Bairstow eves

Countrywide

Cannock 01543 503678

cannock@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

St Johns Road, Cannock



- £20,550**
- No Upward Chain
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Loft Room
 - Lounge, Kitchen
 - Driveway
 - Rear Garden

Staley Croft, Cannock



- £10,000**
- A Semi Detached Property
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Lounge & Conservatory
 - Kitchen/Diner
 - External Covered Side Storage
 - No Upward Chain

Manor Avenue, Cannock



- £14,000 NEW PRICE**
- Internal Working Essential
 - Office/Walk-Upstairs
 - 17th Century, 18th Century Features
 - A Licensed Ground Floor Apartment
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Double Glazing And Central Heating (Both Where Specified)
 - Modern Parking

Attingham Drive, Heath Hayes



- £150,000 NEW**
- Three bedrooms,
 - Fitted Bathroom and Ensuite,
 - Fitted Kitchen with integrated fridge freezer,
 - Lounge with feature fireplace,
 - Utility Room, Downstairs Cloakroom,
 - No Upward Chain.

Stephenson Way, Hednesford



- £150,000**
- A detached property
 - Four bedrooms master with en suite
 - Breakfast kitchen
 - Through lounge dining room
 - Integral garage
 - Double glazing and central heating (where specified)

Ironside Road, Burntwood



- Offers over £130,000 NEW PRICE**
- Internal Working Essential
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Double Glazing And Central Heating (Where Specified)
 - Spacious Fitted Dining Kitchen
 - Utility Room, Guest W.C.
 - Enclosed Rear Garden

Cannock Road, Heath Hayes



- £120,000 NEW PRICE**
- Well Presented Three Bedroom Detached Family Home
 - Lounge, Conservatory
 - Dining Kitchen
 - Upstairs Family Bedroom
 - Double Glazing And Central Heating
 - Driveway

Wolverhampton Road, Cannock



- Offers over NEW PRICE**
- A Detached Period Property
 - Five Double Bedrooms
 - Separate Lounge & Dining Room
 - Sun Room & Summer House
 - Enclosed Rear Garden
 - Double Glazing & Central Heating



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Walcott Road, Great Wyrley



- Offers over £150,000 NEW PRICE**
- Three bedrooms
 - Lounge, separate dining room
 - Guest bedroom, conservatory
 - Double garage and secure parking
 - Enclosed rear garden
 - Kitchen diner
 - Downstairs frontage
 - Instantly presented
 - Working advised

Michurst Drive, Hednesford



- Offers over £130,000 NEW PRICE**
- Immediate Condition
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Impressive Fitted Dining Kitchen
 - Fitted Family Bedroom
 - Double Glazing And Central Heating (Both Where Specified)
 - Bit of Paved Driveway and Garage

Manor Avenue, Cannock



- £12,000 NEW PRICE**
- Internal Working Essential
 - No Upward Chain
 - Office/Walk-Upstairs
 - 17th Century, 18th Century Features
 - A Licensed Ground Floor Apartment
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Double Glazing And Central Heating (Both Where Specified)

Woodward Garage/Britain Coldfield



- £207,500 NEW PRICE**
- Modern Style Detached Property
 - Five Bedrooms
 - Lounge, Dining Room, Study, Playroom & Conservatory
 - Two En Suite Bedrooms
 - Off Road Parking
 - No Upward Chain

Brook Vale, Cannock



- £20,000 NEW**
- Three bedrooms and two baths
 - No Upward Chain
 - Off Road Parking
 - New front porch



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NORTON GANES
BUTTS LANE

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£1100 PCM



CHASSETOWN
Maudslayi Drive

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£799 Pcm



NORTON GANES
Butts Close

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£725 Pcm



CHESLYN HAY
Coltsfoot View

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£695 Pcm



NORTON GANES
Close de Vale

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£675 Pcm



HEATH HAYES
Queens Way

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£675 Pcm



NORTON GANES
Browner Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£995 Pcm



CLAYHANGER
Dunsdale Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£995 Pcm



PELSALL
Lehigh Court

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£995 Pcm



CHASE TERRACE
Raycoy Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£675 Pcm



HIGH HEATH
Redford Drive

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£680 Pcm



NORTON GANES
Wallace Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£575 Pcm

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ALDRIDGE
THE PAD POOKO

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£325 Pcm



ALDRIDGE
BRICKYARD COURT

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£325 Pcm



CLAYHANGER
Dunsdale Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£525 Pcm



HEDNESFORD
SHERRATON CLOSE

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£450 Pcm



CLAYHANGER
Rushbrook Close

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£525 Pcm



HEATH HAYES
PHOENIX WAY

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£450 Pcm



BROWNHILLS
LA PINEDA CLOSE

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£450 Pcm



HUNTINGTON
Redwing Drive

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£480 Pcm



BROWNHILLS
MOORHEN CLOSE

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£475 Pcm



HEDNESFORD
Market Street

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£475 Pcm



CANNOCK
Cannock Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£975 Pcm



CANNOCK
Valley Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£925 Pcm



GREAT WYRLEY
Town View Road

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£295 Pcm



BROWNHILLS
CHERRILL DRIVE

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£375 Pcm



SHEFFIELD
Maple House

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£375 Pcm



HEDNESFORD
Market Street

4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor
4 Bed 1st Floor 1st Floor

£350 Pcm

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21 TUDOR WAY, CHESLYN HAY



FREEHOLD
This is a large, two-story brick house with a gabled roof and a chimney. It has a large front garden and a paved driveway. The house is in excellent condition and is ready to move into.

£389,950 FREEHOLD



£195,000 FREEHOLD

WHITELANDS, 104 NEWHALL STREET, CANNOCK



FREEHOLD
This is a large, two-story brick house with a gabled roof and a chimney. It has a large front garden and a paved driveway. The house is in excellent condition and is ready to move into.

£349,950 FREEHOLD



MARTIN GROVE, HILTON LANE, GREAT WYLEY



FREEHOLD
This is a large, two-story brick house with a gabled roof and a chimney. It has a large front garden and a paved driveway. The house is in excellent condition and is ready to move into.



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MOTING NEWS AND REVIEWS

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The new Twingo earns its stripes

JUST months after launching Gordini versions of the Renaultsport Twingo and Clio, Renault is now poised to release an even more affordable, twin-striped version of its smallest model, Twingo, priced at £11,395.

The new Twingo Gordini 100, powered by the 1.2 TCe (Turbo Control Efficiency) petrol engine, is aimed squarely at customers looking for good handling and affordable running costs, wrapped up in a chic and sporty three-door package.

The appeal of the Gordini versions of Twingo and Clio Renaultsport to a younger audience has already surpassed expectations, with sales of both models having risen significantly.

So much so that, since their arrival across Europe, the 'halo' version of the Twingo now accounts for two-thirds of sales and one-third in the case of Clio.

Renault is now aiming to emulate the runaway success of its 'French flair' models with its latest arrival, which slots into the range above Dynamique, in place of the former GT.

The newcomer is instantly recognisable as a Gordini, through its trademark twin racing stripes with subtle 'G' badging across the bonnet, roof and tailgate. There are gloss black front and rear bumpers, extra-



The famous Gordini twin stripes



The upmarket feel of the interior

tinted rear windows and tailgate and discreet 'Gordini Series' badging.

The sporty theme continues with its colour choice of three – Malta blue, with white Gordini stripes and matching details (foglight surrounds, door mirrors and rear spoiler), or pearlescent black and glacier white. In the case of the latter, the styling details are picked out in anthracite.

On the inside, the bespoke ambience continues. The Gordini 100 features dark carbon cloth seats with embossed Gordini logo and white stitching, blue door trim inserts with white stitching and blue leather-trimmed steering wheel with two white stripes to indicate the straight ahead position. The Gordini rev-counter comes in trademark blue with white background, while the gear knob and base share the same blue hue. The centre console is finished in gloss black, while the pedals

are aluminium. The upmarket feel also crosses over to its equipment level. Standard kit on the trendy addition to Renault's popular city car line-up, includes 4x20W RDS radio with single CD MP3 player, Bluetooth and aux input, air conditioning, 15-inch Turini alloy wheels with polished face and black inserts, cruise control, electric windows, speed limiter and independent sliding and folding rear seats.

Features

The Twingo Gordini 100 can also be ordered with features previously unavailable on GT, including polished alloys with blue inserts and leather-faced Gordini seats with blue detailing. Other options include climate control, metallic paint and electric panoramic sunroof with sunblind.

The Gordini stripes on the bonnet,



The stylish and economical new Twingo Gordini 100 will be ready to order in January

roof and tailgate are a no-cost removable option.

Under the bonnet of the latest version is the responsive 1.2 TCe petrol engine, pushing out 100hp at 5,500 rpm, with a top speed of 117 mph. Meanwhile, beneath the chic Gordini TCe 100 body, lies the GT chassis with stiffer shock absorbers

and bushes, and recalibrated sports steering. Despite its dynamic on-road performance, CO2 emissions of 132g/km mean the Gordini TCe 100 qualifies for the Renault eco+ signature, as well as offering impressive combined fuel economy of 49.5 mpg.

Crucially for a car of its ilk, and especially its appeal to younger

buyers, its insurance group is likely to be competitive when confirmed.

Thirty years on from its heyday, the Gordini name and look still holds a special place in many people's hearts. Nine out of 10 buyers choose the blue livery, while only one per cent of buyers order a Gordini without stripes.

59 Reg KA
1.2 STYLE

3 dr

(Choice of colours)

from **£99**

per month



Cash Price.....£6995.00

Deposit.....£1990.00

Amount of Cash.....£995.00

1st Payment (includes Administration fee of £175.00).....£274.91

48 Monthly Payments.....£93.91

Final Payment (includes option fee purchase fee of £149.00).....£261.30

Guaranteed Future Value.....

(Based on an annual mileage of 10,000).....£2464.50

Total Charge for Cash.....£261.32

Total Repayable.....£941.42

APR Typical.....16.9%

December Specials

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29 Reg	RESTA TITANIUM 1.4 5 door Sea Grey.....	£10295
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29 Reg	RESTA 1.25 STYLE 5 door, Colours, 10,000 miles.....	£7995
29 Reg	RESTA 1.25 STYLE 3 door, Colours, 10,000 miles.....	£7995
29 Reg	RESTA 1.4 1.6 5 door Ocean Blue, 25,000 miles.....	£9495
29 Reg	RESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3 door, Ocean Blue, 25,000 miles.....	£9995
29 Reg	RESTA 1.25 ZETEC 3 door, Tropic Red, 25,000 miles.....	£9295
29 Reg	RESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3 door, Kinross Silver, 31,000 miles.....	£9395

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Special diesel VR-7 versions of the Pro-Cee'd, left, and Cee'd, have been launched by Korean firm Kia

Kia takes the wraps off its new models

KIA has boosted the diesel line-up of its Cee'd model range by introducing a new VR-7 special edition of the Cee'd and Pro-Cee'd.

A new top-of-the-range version of Sorento has also been launched.

Initially launched as a 1.4-litre petrol version in September, the VR-7 special edition is now available with Kia's eco-

nomical 1.6 CRDi turbodiesel engine in both the Cee'd and Pro-Cee'd family hatchbacks.

The VR-7 special edition adds a host of extra equipment, as well as offering a cost saving of up to £815, over the entry-level 1.1 trim five-door model it is based upon. Bluetooth, iPod connectivity and reverse parking sensors add extra convenience whilst 16-inch alloy wheels and body-coded, heated and electrically operated door mirrors enhance the exterior looks.

Inside, a six-speaker CD/stereo, leather finish to the steering wheel, gear knob and handbrake lever and 'one touch' electric front windows complete the list of additional equipment. Powered by Kia's 1.6 CRDi engine, and mated to a six-speed manual gearbox, the VR-7 versions deliver 89bhp at 4,000rpm. The 0-60 mph dash takes 13.5 seconds and a comfortable motorway cruise is

ensured by a 107mph top speed. CO2 emissions of 113g/km (VED band 'C') and a combined cycle economy of 65.7mpg ensure low running costs.

The Cee'd was the first vehicle from any Korean manufacturer to achieve a five-star Euro NCAP rating when it was tested back in 2007 and the VR-7 has a comprehensive array of safety features including a vehicle stability management system, with a hill start feature.

The VR-7 1.6 CRDi Pro-Cee'd is priced at £13,220 on the road and the VR-7 1.6 CRDi Cee'd at £13,420 (including VAT at the new 20 per cent rate).

As with every new Kia, an industry-leading seven year warranty comes as standard.

Building on the successful KX-3 top-of-the-range trim level, the new Sorento KX-3 Sat-Nav adds an integrated satellite navigation system, an updated hi-fi and a

colour reversing camera system to the specification of Kia's flagship SUV.

The KX-3 Sat-Nav is available in all-wheel drive, with a 2.2 CRDi engine and a choice of six-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmissions.

Featuring a 6.5-inch colour touch-screen, the fully-integrated satellite navigation system offers European mapping, motorway junction views, lane guidance, speed limit warnings, multi-route planning (fast, short, eco) and tour planners.

There is also easy access to a parking location function.

The audio performance has been substantially upgraded with the addition of an external amplifier and a subwoofer to the standard six-speaker set-up.

The Sorento KX-3 Sat-Nav Manual and KX-3 Sat-Nav Automatic versions are priced at £31,155 and £32,635.

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Kevin Doyle reflects on another miserable day



Wolves' makeshift midfielder Stephen Ward is sent crashing to the ground by Rovers' Phil Jones

Wolves defensive frailty is exposed once again

HOW can a game that started so well have ended up so disastrously?

And how can a season that started so well be heading the same way?

Wolves don't have to look too far for answers.

Woeful defending continues to threaten their Premier League existence.

Manager Mick McCarthy usually sits through the DVD of the game today and he must have been burying his head in his hands at some of the shocking examples of defending at Ewood Park.

After picking up five points from the first three games, Wolves have bagged just seven from the following 11.

Five defeats in six outings and 10 in the last 13 tells its own sorry story.

An appalling away record of one point from 24 carries a chilling parallel of Burnley last season – and no-one needs reminding what happened to them.

And the worrying common denominator all the way through is a chronic inability to stop the flow of goals against.

Certainly, as long as they keep defending like this, it's going to be a long winter, let alone a miserable Christmas for Wolves.

OK, so we could have been talking about an entirely different outcome had efforts from Stephen Ward or Ronald Zubar in the first five minutes found the net instead of hitting post then bar and post, although keeper Paul Robinson did superbly well to get a hand to Ward's shot.

But not getting it quite right in both penalty areas is something happening far too regularly for comfort.

For Blackburn's first goal from a corner, read Black-

BLACKBURN 3 WOLVES 0

pool's second two weeks ago. Rovers' second seemed to be coated in errors – starting with the linesman on the near side, who allowed Jason Roberts to run onto Michel Salgado's hopeful punt despite looking offside.

Such are the way things are going for Wolves at the moment.

And as the mistakes were clinically exposed, so thoughts turned to absent friends.

They say you don't know what you're missing until it's not there and this was a time to rue the absence of the team's two captains of the recent era.

OK, so Wolves couldn't keep a clean sheet with Jody Craddock and Karl Henry in the team. But it's difficult to see them making it as easy for the opposition as this and there's no doubt Wolves miss their solid influence and dependability.

Steven Mouyokolo may well turn out to be a fine centre-half for Wolves. But his first two Premier League starts – against Kevin Davies of Bolton and Jason Roberts of Blackburn – have proved a tough baptism.

The Frenchman is 6ft 3ins and with the build of a cruiserweight boxer, but he failed to even challenge Ryan Nelsen for the header back across the six-yard box for David Dunn to nod home the first goal.

And he was brushed aside twice then turned far too easily by Roberts for Rovers' second rifled home by Brett Emerton, who made up 10 yards on Zubar on his way to meeting Roberts' square pass.

After replacing Richard Stearman, who paid the price for some costly mistakes by being dropped, Mouyokolo was spared further embarrassment by being removed from the fray at half-time.

Cruel luck then intervened as Michael Mancienne, the next man deployed alongside Christophe Berra, became the latest to succumb to the injury curse.

That left the unusually shaky Zubar alongside Berra before Rovers killed Wolves off with a third goal before the hour.

Again it was the arrowed delivery of Morten Gamst Pedersen that cut through Wolves' heart. But the zeroing accuracy of the free-kick was matched by more incompetent defending as Nelsen was allowed a free hit by Ward to volley past the helpless Wayne Hennessey.

Game over. And with 55 minutes gone and Blackburn content to sit back with the game won, Wolves finally made Robinson earn his money.

The former Tottenham and Leeds shotstopper gave a reminder as to why he should be England's No 1 with superb saves to foil Stephen Hunt (twice), George Elokobi and Sylvan Ebanks-Blake.

But it was too late; the damage had been done. Even if Wolves had made it a grandstand finish, their hapless defending didn't deserve anything.

It's left McCarthy searching for some big answers.

Last season it was the introduction of Marcus Hahnemann and the switch to 4-5-1 that provided the foundations for recovery.

Trouble is, he's already implemented similar changes this time and it hasn't worked.

As one player said afterwards, maybe it's time to 'go longer' like Blackburn and put pressure on the opposition box and force them into mistakes.

Because for all Wolves' neat football, it isn't working.

Repeat performances against Birmingham and Albion don't bear thinking about.

Villa exposed on a big night for club boss

GERARD Houllier spent a year in Liverpool as a teacher in 1970 – some 40 years later he watched his Villa team make the kind of errors which would make a team of schoolboys blush.

It was an emotional return to Anfield for the Villa boss but they will probably be the only fond memories Houllier will take from the match.

The work-rate of the Villa's players cannot be questioned but they simply did not create enough goalscoring chances.

While Houllier's Anfield comeback dominated the build-up, it was the return of another former pupil which directly influenced matters on the pitch.

Stephen Warnock had a game to forget at left-back as he needlessly gave away the corner which led to the first goal and should have marshalled Ryan Babel better for the all-important second.

With 18 goals conceded on the road in the league this season, Houllier must address Villa's defensive frailties urgently. However, the defeat must be placed within the context of Villa's recent injury problems.

Undoubtedly Villa's league position is worrying, especially with a tough run of games heading into the Christmas period, starting with a derby against Albion on Saturday.

Villa fell behind in the 14th minute when a Raul Meireles corner was met by Martin Skrtel whose header was directed past Brad Friedel by David Ngo.

Two minutes later the visitors found themselves two down. Ciaran Clark gave the ball away cheaply in mid-field and Lucas took advantage to slip an inch-perfect pass into the path of Babel.

The Dutch winger was in an offside position but the ease with which Warnock was beaten to the ball characterised his recent struggles.

Houllier introduced Nathan Delfouneso for Clark at half-time and added extra impetus with Stephen Ireland slotting into central midfield.

They should have pulled a goal back when Agbonholor's close-range shot was saved by Pepe Reina before Paul Konchesky cleared.

But the Villa rearguard was left exposed and a swift Liverpool counter-attack in the 55th minute effectively secured the points as Maxi Rodriguez finish superbly into top corner.

LIVERPOOL 3 VILLA 0



Rival bosses Roy Hodgson and Gerard Houllier watch on

Classy Baggies Toon-up in style



Man-of-the-moment Peter Odemwingie rounds Newcastle goalkeeper Tim Krul to fire home and put the Baggies three-up at The Hawthorns

ALBION'S double-derby countdown has now kicked off after a result that cost Newcastle boss Chris Hughton his job..

And Baggies fans cannot have relished a derby week quite this much in years.

A fabulous victory over Newcastle at The Hawthorns took Roberto Di Matteo and Co past the halfway mark in their quest for the magical 40 points target.

And it set them perfectly for the meetings with Villa and Wolves that could turn an already memorable season into a truly special campaign.

Two tremendous victories in nine days have banished worries of an Albion slump and restored the feel-good factor that was established in a flying opening period of the season.

And the latest success with arguably their slickest performance of the season highlighted just how far the Baggies have come since a return to the Premier League was confirmed.

Di Matteo's men ended last season 11 points behind the Toon, who were runaway winners of the Championship.

Yet the Baggies played much of Sunday's one-sided game on a different planet to the Magpies.

The hosts dominated their woeful visitors for all but 10 minutes. They might have the match locked together on points, but the teams ended it poles apart as Albion offered clear evidence that this season could be the one when they finally become the genuine article in the Premier League.

Paul Schärner and Gabriel Tamas showed

ALBION 3 NEWCASTLE 1

signs of striking up an effective central defensive partnership while Gonzalo Jara and Marek Cech delivered impressive displays at full-back, although that elusive clean sheet escaped them again thanks to Peter Lovenkrands' last-gasp consolation effort for the visitors.

Graham Dorrans produced a hugely efficient display in an unaccustomed holding role while Chris Brunt and James Morrison gave hard-working and inventive displays at the heart of the team.

Somen Tchoyi stepped in for a rare start and gave the kind of jack-in-the-box showing that will make him hard to drop. Jerome Thomas was back to close to his best on the opposite flank.

In attack, Peter Odemwingie shook off his continuing knee discomfort to score two ultra-cool goals.

The only worry for a dominant home side was that they reached half-time just one goal to the good, Tchoyi producing another memorable strike to beat Tim Krul after he had collected Brunt's pass and side-stepped Jose Enrique.

However, despite a more evenly-matched second half, the result was rarely in doubt.

Only one goal-bound header from Steven Taylor – pushed away by Scott Carson – offered genuine alarm for the Baggies, who made sure of the points with two incisive counter-attacking strikes by Odemwingie.

The Toon reduced the arrears in stoppage time when Carson made a fine save from Andy Carroll, only for Lovenkrands to convert the rebound.

Semi-final place for King Edwards Boys

LICHFIELD were represented by King Edwards School at the Midlands Indoor under-18 School Hockey Finals where all of the other teams were public or Grammar schools.

King Edward VI under-18 Girls, representing Staffordshire as champions fielded a very young team of under-15s.

Although they did not win a game they did gain a great experience playing against schools with county, Midlands and national under 18 players coached by men and women with international caps.

The King Edwards team with Caitlin Harper in goal Yasmin Mortiboy, Becca Eastland and Ellie Doubleday in defence and Natalie Lawrence, Chloe Parkes, Katie Hughes and Maddie Comber in attack really played better and better as the day progressed.

The side scored their only goal of the day when Natalie Lawrence harassed the Princethorpe defence into giving her the ball and then sent a shot past the keeper and into the corner of the net to go one goal up.

HOCKEY

This, however sparked the Princethorpe side into action. The King Edwards Boys Under 18 team did even better with a more representative under-18 side.

They narrowly lost out 2-0 to a very good Worksop side but went on to win the next three league games against Bishop Vezey, Malvern and Tothill the last game by the impressive score of 10-0.

This took the team through to the semi final where they came up against Bromsgrove a team with several German international under 18 players - King Edwards lost 4-0.

Both the boys and girls represented their school and the city exceptionally well on a very cold day.

This weekend the Lichfield Men's 1st XI play indoors in the National play-offs for the National league and the following weekend Lichfield Hockey Club under-16 Girls and Boys and the under 18 Girls will compete in the Midlands Club finals.

Hat-trick of team titles for Meiji club

THE Meiji School of Excellence has claimed a hat-trick of team triumphs, lifting the overall Gold at the Midland Area Age/Team event held at Castle Vale, Birmingham.

The club entered 16 competitors and returned with won 11 individual medals - six of them Gold and five bronze.

JUDO

In addition, the club added to its Cobra Team title won in July and the Bushi Team award collected

three months later. Gold medal winners were Meena Harrington, Jasmine Turner, Shane Davies, Ben Bradbury, Issie Hall-Woodcock and Jordan Smith while Reece Harrington, Matthew Tolley, Khya Hudson, Luke Turner and Corey Daley all picked up bronzes.

The club entered two teams (A and B), made up of five fighters each, into the lightweight teams event and another team (C) of three into the heavy-weight event. All of the teams fought really well with some impressive throws and ground work.

The atmosphere was intense as many parents and supporters knew it this could be the treble.

In the past three years the Meiji judo club has taken second place having reached the final and then lost.

Teams B and C fought well and achieved the bronze. However team A, comprising of Harrison Jones, Meena Harrington, Reece Harrington, Shane Davies and Ben Bradbury, rose under pressure and took the Meiji Judo club into the final again and won - earning Meiji School of Excellence the title of Midland Area Team Champions for 2010.

Sensei Stewart Hogg, a 3rd Dan Black Belt said: "No club has ever won two team events never mind all three.

"I am so proud of all my members. My only words to them are -you are the best and I am proud to be your Sensei."

Meiji School of Excellence trains twice a week, on a Wednesday from 6-8pm at Burnwood Leisure Centre and at Hayes Green Community centre on a Friday from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Classes are for adults and children.

The club is under represented from ethnic groups and would welcome any new members.

For further details, visit the club at www.meiji.org.uk



Left to Right: Graham Jellyman, Pool League chairman, treasurer John Murray and Wendy Benson of Macmillan

Pool players raise cancer cash in baize of glory

MACMILLAN Cancer Support has pocketed cash thanks to kind-hearted pool players.

The Rugeley & District Pool League presented a cheque for £1,000 to the charity at the Castle pub in Brereton at the end of last month.

Pool league chairman and Castle landlord Graham Jellyman said a competition called the Macmillan Memorial Trophy had been started when one of the pub's regulars passed away from cancer.

The Pool League is made up of a number of different pubs across Southern

Staffordshire, including: the Castle, the White Hart in Penkridge, the Swan and Spode Cottage at Armitage, the Windmill and Sammy's Bar in Lichfield, the Fox & Hounds in Little Raywood, the Green Man at Hixon and Rugeley pubs Mansfield House, The Moderation, the Pear Tree and Mossley.

Players from competing pubs took part in the memorial trophy with all cash raised going towards the charity.

Pool League treasurer John Murray handed over the cheque to Janos Toth, Macmillan fundraising manager for

Staffordshire. John said: "We are really pleased to have raised £1,000 for Macmillan and we know this goes to help people affected by cancer and their families".

Janos said: "Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer."

"One in three of us in this room will be diagnosed with cancer during our lifetime," he added.

"We are all affected by cancer and by playing Pool with your league you are doing something to help people here in Rugeley and across Staffordshire."

Debutants outpointed by host club's fighters

BOXING

TWO Great Wyrley boxers made their debuts last week in the very plush surroundings of the Platinum Plaza, in Old Hill, deep in the heart of the Black Country.

First up was 14-year old Reece Roberts who had a demanding debut against the host club's Ryan Burkinshaw.

Very heavy handed for a 14-year-old, Burkinshaw took the first round, loading up on his right hand and catching the fast moving Roberts with his hooks. One of these stunned Roberts on the ropes, and he was glad to hear the sound of the bell to end a very rough round.

Burkinshaw made a good start in the second but Roberts finally got into it and began to land his own fast punches to push his opponent back. Once or twice he trapped the Warley boxer on the ropes and

though his punches didn't carry the same weight behind them as his opponents' they still scored.

It was all Roberts in the last round as he carried the fight to his rapidly tiring opponent, firing in fast one-two's as Burkinshaw tried to end matters with one big swing. burkinshaw took a unanimous points decision but Roberts can take a lot of positives from the bout and come back a lot better fighter.

Jelly

Boxing is a funny old game. Fifteen minutes before you're due to go in the ring you can look and feel a million dollars! Then you get in the ring and everything turns to jelly.

This happened to 20-year-old Rikki Aulton (Great Wyrley) against the host club's Alex Cairnes. Cheered on by a large

support Aulton could do nothing right against an opponent who seemed made for him. Cairnes couldn't believe his luck as Aulton boxed with his hands by his waist and try to rely on his reflexes to keep him out of trouble, something he never does in the gym. Cairnes, short armed and stocky, landed time and time again on his opponent's unguarded chin, only taking a few light jabs in return.

Cairnes' square on approach was crying out for a straight down the middle but Aulton was out of range every time he threw it. Cairnes capped a good performance by inflicting a standing eight count on the Wyrley fighter in the last round and took a wide unanimous decision.

It will be interesting to see how Aulton comes back from this as he is definitely a much better fighter than this.

Great Wyrley Boxing club closes for Christmas on Wednesday December 22 and reopens on Monday January 3.

LATEST results and tables from the Briggs Equipment Indoor Bowls League, December 5:

BOWLS LATEST

Division One

Storer & Storer	4	3	1	24	6
Carter & Barker	4	3	1	21	6
Evans & Pritchatt	4	2	1	15	6
Edwards & Murray	4	2	4	6	4
Parsons & Parsons	4	2	2	-18	4
Hayward & Gray	4	1	3	-9	2
Marshall & Preece	4	1	3	-12	2
Jones & Johnson	4	1	3	-28	2

Division Two

Statham & Preece	4	4	0	22	8
Tapper & Elliott	4	3	1	16	6
Newey & Newey	4	3	1	10	6
Hollis & Powis	4	2	4	14	4
Cavill & Bardsley	4	4	2	10	4
Hanley & Chester	4	1	3	-10	2
Hulse & Cook	4	1	3	-35	2
Evans & Allen	4	0	4	-27	0

Division Three

Egan & Roles	4	4	0	36	8
Simonczyk & Platz	4	3	1	28	6
Colbourne & Colbourne	4	3	1	5	6
Pugh & Coulthard	4	2	2	6	4
Taylor & Garbett	4	2	2	-8	4
Baird & Baird	4	1	3	-23	2
Hodgkinson & Edwards	4	1	3	-23	2
Alcock & Baird	4	0	4	-22	0

CHRISTMAS BARGAINS CHRISTMAS BARGAINS CHRISTMAS BARGAINS CHRISTMAS BARGAINS

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FOOTBALL:
Wolves and
Villa go down
while Albion call
the Toon
- see page 62

BOXING:
Wyrley fighters
miss out on
debut ring
appearance
- see page 63

JUDO:
Hat-trick of
team titles for
Meiji School of
Excellence
- see page 63

GAME MAY BE UP BUT ROYALISTS TRIUMPH

WINDSOR & ETON 3 HEDNESFORD TOWN 2
HEDNESFORD Town squandered a golden opportunity to move back into the play-off places of the Zamaretto League after twice taking the lead in the first half.

On a sad afternoon for The Royalists, who may well have played their last ever game as a football club due to the imminent threat of receivership, both teams served up a watchable 90 minutes in picturesque surroundings and accompanied by the roar of the Heathrow flight path.

The next few days could prove critical to the hosts' future. But if they are to go out of business they went out in a blaze of glory at Stag Meadow.

The Pitmen started the brighter and Liam Francis scored a rare goal within four minutes of the first whistle when he glanced in Darren Crane's perfectly delivered corner kick. Francis undid his earlier good work on 16 minutes when he scuffed a clearance unchallenged straight to the grateful

HEDNESFORD TOWN FC

Fiston Manuella who swept the equaliser beyond Dan Crane. Marvin Robinson was causing aggravation for the home side's centre halves throughout the opening exchanges but it was Windsor & Eton who played the more attractive football following their goal and an intricate passing move allowed top scorer Michael Chennells to fire into the side netting.

Pitmen playmaker Chris Clements showed a classy array of long passes and his influence grew on 25 minutes when he set up Jake Mould to cut inside and rifle a stinging left-footed shot inches over Rob Bullivant's cross bar.

It was Clements' brilliantly flighted free kick which set up Francis to slide in his second goal of the game on 28 minutes.

Danny Quinn came close to doubling his sides lead on two occasions at the beginning of the second half as he glided through the Windsor & Eton offside trap only to be denied by a smart save from Bullivant. The same player then curled a shot inches wide of the post from 18 yards.

The home side took their chance on 54 minutes when slack defending let Chennells advance on goal and despite Crane bravely blocking his first attempt the Windsor & Eton striker slotted into an open net to restore parity.

Clements continued to pull strings in the midfield but no player could reach his teasing free kick before Windsor & Eton took the lead on 65 minutes as David Pearce followed up a Chennells shot from inside the area.

Simon Brown and Gavin Hurren were introduced to chase the game but the home side defended resolutely and held on for an important if possibly hollow victory.

The result was Hednesford's third straight defeat in the league as they struggle to find the form which saw them look odds on for a play-off spot two months ago.

Rob Smith and Larry Chambers have the nucleus of a very exciting side but inconsistency continues to bite hard. The opportunity to return to winning ways comes in the shape of a visit to Keys Park by Didcot Town on Saturday (December 11), kick off 3pm.



Pitmen players congratulate skipper Liam Francis

Smith blasts 'soft' defence

PITMEN boss Rob Smith has admitted that defensive mistakes cost his side the opportunity to move into fourth place following Saturday's loss at Windsor & Eton.

A temporary thaw in the freezing conditions gave the Pitmen the chance to move into the play-off positions.

Despite taking a 2-1 lead in the first half Smith was left frustrated at defensive lapses which cost his side dear.

"Collectively we are not defending as a unit, our decision making was poor throughout the game," he said. "We have a soft centre at the back at the moment; no matter what formation we play we are simply not keeping clean sheets."

Smith did try to take positives from the defeat, notably the fact that his side arguably had the better opportunities to win the match.

"The game should have been dead and buried with the chances we created. There's always an argument that if you score two goals as an away team you should win but we should have scored a third, we didn't, and we paid the price."

The Pitmen still sit three points outside the play-off places and Smith sees only one way to get his team back to winning ways.

"We've got to learn from games like Saturday and bounce back with the home match against Didcot."

Davies loan extended as Parsons leaves Scholars

AFC Telford United have agreed to let Richard Davies stay at Chasetown for another month.

The defender will now remain at the Scholars until January 3. This will allow him to play in this weekend's FA Trophy first round tie with Kettering Town, as well as the clashes with Retford United and North Ferriby United over the festive period.

Davies said he had settled in well at the Scholars Ground and enjoyed a good rapport with his new team mates. He added the side had still been training regularly despite their lack of matches.

Manager Charlie Blakemore said: "I have agreed with AFC Telford manager Andy Sinton the extension of Richard's loan for another

month. He has been in good form for us and I am really pleased with his attitude and commitment."

"I have always liked Richard after seeing him play several times when he was at Walsall, he has bags of energy and drive. He is gaining valuable experience with us and I am really grateful to Andy at Telford for agreeing to extend his loan."

One player on his way out at Chasetown, however, is the popular Lee Parsons.

He has left the club after around six years to join Zamaretto League Midland Division side Rugby Town.

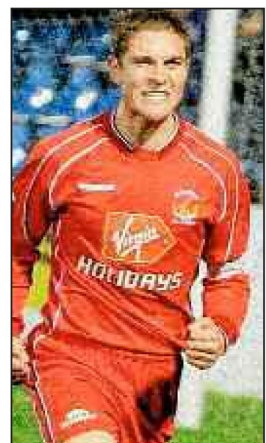
Parsons joined the Scholars in 2004 and has proved hugely popular with supporters during

his time with the club, but has missed most of the last three years with a knee injury and only recently returned to action.

Boss Charlie Blakemore said: "Lee was in my very first squad as Chasetown manager in February 2004 and has been a great player for me and the club. He was cruelly robbed of playing in the FA Cup 3rd round against Cardiff after rupturing his cruciate knee ligament in a game two weeks before the tie."

"He has worked hard to get fully fit again and he needs competitive games at a good level to test his match fitness. He goes with my blessing and I wish him all the best in the future. He is a great lad."

Chasetown welcome Blue Square Conference outfit Kettering to Church Street this weekend. Kick off on Saturday (December 11) is 3pm.



Lee Parsons in Scholars colours



Richard Davies in action

Cannock & Lichfield Chronicle, a Midland News Association publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, December 9, 2010



Chasetown's Scholars ground is due to stage FA Trophy football this weekend, but here it is earlier in the week under a blanket of snow

New group's AGM

THE Hednesford Town Football Club Supporters Association will be formally constituted tonight (Thursday) at the organisation's inaugural Annual General Meeting at Keys Park.

The election of the Committee and Officers will take place from 7.30pm and the association will then discuss a number of subjects regarding the Independent Travel Club, Teambuilder, community liaison, press and public relations and fundraising opportunities.

All members are invited to attend and new members will be welcomed on the night.

Hayes remain hopeful

HEATH Hayes FC are confident this weekend's FA Vase clash with Bloxwich United will go ahead. Kick off for the third round tie is at 3pm and the club is hopeful the Newlands Lane pitch will be playable.

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